XV
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11805/A
by John Bachelor
Wing B 260

BEING an old bachelor, I dine more frequently with my friends than at home; I think it my duty to divert them with ſomething entertaining, as a ſmall compenſation for my dinner; for this end I have got together, by frequent reading and converſation, a large collection of jeſts, conundrums, &c. &c. &c. But, as my ſtock, you know, cannot laſt for ever, I am ſometimes obliged to recruit it with ſome *bagatelle* of my own invention. Dining, the other day, at a friend's houſe, where I uſually make my appearance once a week, a young lady, whether from want of appetite, or out of obſtinacy, I cannot determine, refuſed her dinner: After many uſeleſs ſolicitations on all ſides, I addreſſed her thus:

Eat it if you can
Eat it if you can't
Eat it
Don't eat it

The whole company immediately teſtified marks of ſurprize; the young lady, who was rather offended, deſired me, if I could ſpeak no more to the purpoſe, to ſay nothing. I inſiſted upon it that it was to the purpoſe. How can that be? ſays my friend; you firſt deſire my daughter to eat her dinner if ſhe can; then to eat if ſhe cannot; and then, after deſiring her to eat it, you tell her ſhe muſt not eat it: Can you call this unintelligible jargon of contradictions to the Purpoſe? Surely no. I ſtill aſſerted that what I had ſaid was ſtrictly true, and to convince the company of the juſtneſs of my aſſertion, told them, that the whole conſiſted in a ſmall change of the ſtops, which, without altering a ſingle letter, would convert it into

Eat it if you can eat it
If you can't eat it don't eat it.

The whole company were ſatisfied with the explanation, and Miſs, pleaſed with the oddity of the invitation, eat her dinner with great chearfulneſs.

Toutes p. 105-160

1) BACHELER, J

2) QUINZE joies de mariage

The XV. COMFORTS OF *Rash and Inconsiderate* MARRIAGE, OR Select Animadversions UPON THE *MISCARRIAGES.* OF A *WEDDED STATE.*

Done out of French.

The Third Edition, with the Addition of three Comforts.

LONDON,
Printed for *S. Heyrick*, *W. Crooke*, and *M. Gillyflower*, 1683.

TO THE

READER.

IT is an Old Saying, That every thing grows worse and worse, which the *Venusian* Poet seems to confirm in these following words, ach to the same purpose,

Ætas Parentum, pejor Avis, tulit
Nos Nequiores, mox daturos
Progeniem Vitiosiorem.

Notwithstanding whose Autho-y, and the pretended Antiquity reof, I'll be bold to affirm, that s Adage in the Vulgar and mi-ken Application thereof, car-s neither Sence nor Reason with having no other Basis to support

it, but Malice, Ignorance, or bot
and tho' this Treatiſe ſhould not a
ſolutely prove the contrary, it w
at leaſt ſhake, if not totally explo
that common Opinion, *viz.* Th
Woman is the worſt piece of t
Hexameron Creation, and com
quently, according to the *Maſcul*
tho' in truth, merely Sophiſti
Logick of this Modern Age, l
come (the more the pity) the Su
ject of all the Raillery, or (in dow
right Engliſh) Railling againſt t
harmleſs and innocent Sex; an
queſtion not but by this Diſcou
all Diſſenters will be of my Op
on, that if ever Vertue did app
and ſhine with Glory, Splen
and its own Native and Charm
Beauty in any created Subſtan
it is moſt viſible and conſtant in
Female, I muſt ingenuouſly con
that I have a particular Inclina
to, and Deference for that Sex, h
ing my ſelf obliged to vindi

them from those Calumnies where-
with they have been so foulely and
causlesly aspersed by Ancient, as
well as Modern Authors; nor am
I to blame for deserting my own
Cause, to justifie what may seem
against my self, and espouse the E-
quitable Condition and defence of
the contrary, and so much injur'd
Party. This is the Composition of
some Amorous Person, who anima-
ted with the same Spirit and Affe-
ction as I am, hath undertaken
(and judged it his Duty too) to
satisfie you, and (he hopes) so far
as to work upon you a Persuasion
that the Modesty, Bashfulness, De-
bonaireté, and Civility, together
with all Qualifications that adorn
and beautifie the Soul, are as Ex-
emplarily eminent in Women of
this Age, as ever they were in any of
the former; and instruct you to
set a value on their Actions, as the
best Creatures in the worst of

Times, whose Vertue must nece
shine with the greater Lustre, H
ing subject to the vain Assaul
and Ineffectual Temptations
Men, grown old (like the Time
in Wickedness, Malice and R
venge.

Farew

TH

THE PREFACE.

THE *Philoſophers and Sages of former Times, as well as thoſe of a later Date, have ſpent* Operam & Oleum, *exhauſted their Spirits, and waſted their Bodies, till at laſt, by their Indefatigable Pains and Induſtry, they crumbled into Duſt, and all to inculcate this Doctrine, grounded upon ſolid Reaſon; that it is certainly a greater Happineſs for a Man to enjoy Freedom uncontroul'd, than to enſlave himſelf for ever without Compulſion. He muſt of neceſſity forfeit his Reaſon, that is of a contrary Opinion; for as a Modern Poet ſings truly;*

Surely their Heads unpeopled are with Brains,
That hug their Fetters, and embrace their Chains.

That man is unqueſtionably ſenceleſs, who enjoys his Freedom in the Vigor and Sprightlineſs of his youth, living in the ſtream of wealth and the high Tide of Pleaſure and Delight,

is careſs'd by Fortune, laden with Favours
and almoſt cloy'd with Comforts ; a Per
ſon that may cry Sciolto *to his Paſſion*
give them the looſe Rein, gratifie his Ap
petite and Guſt, with whatſoever thre
of the four Elements can furniſh him
and yet this Perſon, notwithſtanding a
theſe Advantages, throws himſelf in
an Abyſs of miſery, confines himſelf to
Perſon (a Wife) whoſe beſt Qualificat
on is Peeviſhneſs, forfeits his Freedom
Reaſon, Content, and Satisfaction, an
loſeth his own, to enſlave himſelf
the Humour of another ; and this too f
Life, for whom the Art and Wit of t
Pregnant and Subtile can never procure
Ranſom in order to Redemption. Wou
not any rational Creature judge him guil
of Statute-madneſs, who being ſhewn t
Loathſomneſs and Horror of a Dungeon
views the maigre and ghoſt-like Aſpect of t
famiſhed Priſoner, hears the hideous Shrie
and Groans of ſhackled Malefactors, the ra
ling noiſe of whoſe heavy Irons is a Harm
ny only fit to drive ſerious Man out of
Wits ; would not, I ſay, any Perſon gift
with Reaſon, look upon him to be mad beyo
the Cure of Drugs or Medicines, w
ſhall nevertheleſs ſhake hands with his Lib

ty, and the unaccountable delights that attend it, and cast himself into a Goal, with a resolution never to be discharged, but to lie there and perish? The very Brutes, tho never so stupid, or wild, value their Roaming Liberty at the highest Rate: hazarding, nay, losing their Life, which is their All, their whole Being, their little Eternity (pardon the Expression) to preserve their Freedom; and shall Man, the perfection of the Creation, endow'd with a rational Soul, inspired by the Deity, come short of Inanimate Power, Inconderable Animals, in a business of such weight and concernment, upon which the Contentation, and in truth, Felicity of Human Life doth consist? Dii avertant.

Consider farther to confirm this argument, the Desire and Love of Freedom and Liberty, is so innate in all persons, that not only Man, but Woman, the weaker Sex, nay, Children, a weaker part of the weaker Sex, have hazarded, nay, lost Wealth, Fortune, and Life, rather than part with so precious a Jewel. The sad Catastrophes of persons and Kingdoms, the horrid Massacres and Murders, the Torments, Plagues, Battels, Quarrels and Discontents between Nations and Parties, the Depopulation of Republicks, the Demolishing of Kingdoms, the Extirpa-

ting of Princes, the Assassinating Kings Emperors (a Curse on the Disciples of Lame Loyola *for that King-killing Tenet) nay, most of the Barbarous Tragedies that have been acted upon the bloody Stage of this World, have had no other Source than the natural Desire and Affection of Liberty (how justly I dispute not) and Property, the Darling Twins of Mankind, ever since the first* Prevarication.

The wild Beasts of the desert are ensnar'd and taken in Pit-fals by the Craft and Cunning of the wary Huntsman, who with Artifice contrives them so, that they are narrow at Top, and broad at the Bottom, from whence there is no possibility of Escape but they must continue a Prey to the over-wily Man that made the Snare, and so the Brute loseth the Liberty which kind Nature conferr'd upon him, and unkind Man Craftily deprives him of. The same thing may be said of those that are married, when they are once enchained and fettered with the Bands of Matrimony, *a sad state (as it often falls out, if they once fall into it) from whence there is no Redemption. The silly, mute fish, after the same manner, labors with divers turnings to wind it self into the Net, Baited thereunto, till*

at last she loseth her Life and Liberty. This Net in truth is the Net of Matrimony, and the Youthful, Precipitate, Heedless Hot-spurs of this Age, whose Chins are scarce cover'd with tender Down, are the Fishes without the Net, who fancy to themselves, that they may Bathe and Swim in a Calm and undisturb'd stream of Pleasure, and at last launch out into a Torrent, or rather Sea of misery, encompassed with nothing but Storms and Tempests to their continual disturbance and vexation, having lost themselves in an Inclosure, that they can neither break through, nor leap over, but there live discontentedly, languish painfully till they dwindle away to nothing, and so at last Die miserable. It is a saying of the Learned Scaliger, *that a Wife is an Hectic Fever, never to be cur'd by any thing but Death, nor can any wise man deny it.*

The report is current of a famous Physician, Valere *by Name, who being ask'd by one of his Friends, (that had the misfortune to be catch'd in the Nooze of Wedlock,) whether he had done well in changing his condition of single Life, returned him this bitter, tho' true Answer; Friend (said he) could you not find out some Precipice to*

cast

caſt your ſelf headlong from thence into th
Sea? intimating thereby, that he had mad
a better Election, had he gain'd ſome hig
Rock, and precipitated himſelf into th
Fathomleſs Ocean, there to conſummate a
once all his Miſeries, rather than involv
himſelf in a Turbulent Sea, the diſtracti
ons, diſcontents and Vexations of a Wea
ded State, never to be redreſſed; a Mala
dy that bids defiance to the power of an
Drug or Doctor, how famous or exquiſit
ſoever.

Great and inexpreſſible was the Regre
and ſorrow of the Arch-deacon of Tour
in France, *who being ſo infatuated (ſha*
I ſay) or faſcinated, as to forſake th
Happy, and Religious Life of a Clerk
with all its appendent Priviledges, marrie
the Reverſion of another, (a Widdow) an
fooliſhly fell into a Quagmire, wherein on
had been drown'd before him; with whom
being link'd by the Indiſſoluble and Gordi
an-Knot of Marriage, he led a tedious life
or to ſpeak more properly, endur'd a Vaſſalag
almoſt inſupportable; for which he ſang a
mournful Ditty, to the Tune of——

Fortune my Foe, *why haſt*
thou married me, and chaunted a Cordia
Palinode, reſerving to himſelf only thi
Com

Comfort, that he had ſome hope by his own Miſcarriage, to forwarn others from the like Inadvertency and Raſhneſs, and to that purpoſe compos'd ſeveral Learned Treatiſes, to dehort all men from ſuch unadviſed Enterprizes and Attempts. Nor is he ſingular herein; for many perſons of great Parts, and known Abilities have endeavor'd to diſcover the Servitude, and more than Egyptian *Bondage of a Coupled Condition; and in my Judgment to be Free without Cenſoriouſneſs, the Eighteen Comforts of Matrimony herein fully diſplay'd and clearly laid open, are the greateſt Misfortunes, Pains, Diſcontents, and Torments that can enter into the Thoughts of man. Yet for all that is premention'd, I do not blame the State of Matrimony (as now inſtituted by the Church) for beyond all diſpute, Marriage is an Eccleſiaſtical and Religious Tye, a Boundary to Extravagancy, giving a Check to the exorbitant paſſions of the wild and hotheaded Youth of both Sexes, and confining them to one perſon, which is but Juſt and Lawful, & not permit them, like brutes to range about in Common, or the Sect of* Nicolaitans, *who differ'd little from Beaſts in that Prophane and Diſſolute Tenet of theirs,*

Com-

Community of Women; nor do I find fau
with those that marry; I am of their Op
nion, and say they do well; for we sojour
in this World to endure and suffer Af
flictions, to allay the heighth of our Pridi
and give a Check to all Eccentrick an
Irregular Passions, that after the miseries o
this Life, we may thereby be prepar'd an
fitted for a happy and blessed Estate here
after. And indeed I do not think that
Man can by the Compass of this Life sa
into a deeper Ocean of Misery and Afflicti
on, considering the inevitable Grievousnes
and indispensible continuance of a marrie
Life (I mean only such as rashly an
unadvisedly without due consideration of th
Temper and Constitution of one another me
and marry, the want of which good E
lection and Choice renders the Wedded sta
so Burdensome and insupportable) which un
doubtedly exceeds all the Racks and En
gines of Torment that the Barbarity o
Tyrants, and the malitious Wit of Man eve
invented; but yet when a Husband is onc
inur'd and accustomed to the Domestic Jar
of a double Life, and like the Ass, bear
the burthen patiently, which custom hat
made so Tolerable, that he prides him
self in his fondness, patience and long suf-
ferings

Fering; of this in fine, there may be made a good Application, or at leaſt he may make a vertue of neceſſity: for that is but a Foppiſh and vain Conceit of ſome empty Pates, that Patience per force is a Medicine for a mad Dog, and ſo conſequently not worth the refutation. To conclude, I have taken ſome Pains in compoſing theſe Fifteen Comforts of Matrimony, for the ſatisfaction of thoſe who are in that State; and I am confident dare not contradict them, without they give their Wives the Lye, when they are once faſt and intangled in the Net; and for prevention of others, by way of Caution, from running the ſame Riſque, the utmoſt Remedy whereof is a thread-bare Patience or a whining Recantation; or if they muſt venture upon this Charybdis to avoid Shipwrack in ſo dangerous a Condition, let them look before they leap, according to the old Proverb, and elect ſuch a Perſon as may be link'd in Temper and Humor, whoſe Souls may be united as well as their Bodies, that ſo their Hour-glaſs may run to the laſt Sand without Interuption or Moleſtation, and they have a Numerous happy Iſſue, (the dear Pledges of a Married Life) to perpetuate their

Name —

Name and Memory, that their Aſhes m
leave a fragrant ſmell to Poſterity; for
therwiſe if they embrace this Holy Ordinan
without due and ſerious Conſideration, (w
on which moment depends their Happin
upon Earth) they deſerve the Burial of
Aſs, and by my conſent ſhall drop into t
Grave without either Tears or Pity.

TH

THE First Comfort OF *MATRIMONY.*

YOuth is naturally inclined to Mirth and Gallantry, with all the Briskneſs and Gaiety imaginable; have Limbs agile and active, fancying nothing but Muſick, Dancing, Balls and Plays, where the Variety of Female Objects fire the Young Sparks, in ſo much as Love ſoon breaks out, and many times to their Ruin and Deſtruction. In this Heat of Paſſion the Youngſter viſits Ladies, Complements after the new mode, Careſſes them with all demonſtrations of fervent Affections, makes his Amours with a kind of ſtarch'd Formality, which turns all into ridicule, tho' poſſibly that ſet way of Courtſhip may pleaſe the Foppiſh Female Cit, and gratifie her Childiſh Humor: Thus far he proceeds with applauſe and Ac-

Acceptance; but this will no way satisfie the Young Gentleman, he must come to Embraces, free her from the Curse of Barrenness, and himself from the Scandal of Impotence; and now the Game begins; he is pregnant with Love and must be delivered, tho the Remedy proves ten times worse than the Disease; in short He plies the business so briskly, and pursues her with that Warmth and Constancy that she can no longer resist, but in spight of all her Maiden Modesty, must yield to his Proposals, tho she perchance Counterfeits a Blush at the Condescention she bestows as ready to comply with him, as he to apply himself to her, and as willing to understand the Sweets of the Marriage Bed, as the Hot Youth that so vigorously pursues her. Thus in a short time the whole Business is concluded, and the Solemnity of their Matrimony perform'd with as much, or rather more Vanity and Expence than is consistent with the Ability of either, or both of them; but fall back, fall edge the Knot is tied, never to be loosened but by Death, the Priest having joyn'd them so firmly together, that 'tis impossible to un-hand them again; tho' probably before the Moon hath run her

Men

Menſtruous Courſe the Husband may appear like that Grand Luminary in her firſt Quarter, and ſhe curſe the Canonical Garb that faſtned them in ſo ſtrict a Band as that of Marriage, as will appear, and that very ſuddenly.

Now you muſt imagine, that our Gallant minds nothing for the preſent, but the ſatiating himſelf with Delight, Dancings, Treats, and ſuch kind of Diverſions as uſually attend ſuch ridiculous and idle Conjunctions. There appears as yet nothing but Mirth and Jollity, no Scene of Sorrow is admitted in this Comedy; his whole deſign is to pleaſe and court his Wife with raviſhing Addreſſes, underſtands nothing but what ſhe approves, nor entertains his Thoughts with any thing but the Contrivance of preſenting her with Bagatels and little Toys, ſuch as are apt to gratifie the vain Humor of a foppiſh young Girl, drawn into the Net and wheadled or cajol'd into the Pit of Marriage: well, no matter, let them both run their own Career; theſe ſeeming Bleſſings, this Counterfeit Felicity, this mask'd Love, and vizarded Content will prove but ſhort liv'd, and then let the troubles of the whole time after be balanced with thoſe few ſuppoſititious and

imagi-

imaginary Delights they enjoyed in th
Infancy of their Marriage, and the Vex
tions of the one will out-weigh the ſatis
faction of the other, by ſo many degree
that Arithmetick it ſelf can never deſcrib
its true and due Proportion. Now th
time of Dalliance being over, and th
Cares of the World coming upon ther
you ſhall underſtand a ſtrange and unexp
cted Alteration, which we may call, (an
I hope without Offence) the Firſt Comfo
of Matrimony.

Now the Wife we muſt ſuppoſe to
well acquainted with the cunning In
trigues of a married Woman, and is n
to be taught her Leſſon; Feaſts, Goſſi
ings and Treats, have inſtructed her ſu
ficiently how to perſonate the ſubt
Wife with an Uxorious Husband, a
ſhe begins to make an eſſay of her Woma
Craft according to the humor of thoſe
converſed with in the Female Cabals, u
ally frequented by her; and thus ſhe b
gins to play her Pranks: The other d
ſhe was invited to a Regale, a very no
Treat indeed, where there was nothi
wanting to gratifie the Appetite; ſhe to
great notice of the Habit and Attire of
veral Wives of her own Rank and Q
lity, how richly they were accoutred, a

af

after the newest Mode; this was so great an Eye-sore to her, that she watched an opportunity to disclose her mind to her Husband, thinking it but reasonable that she should appear as gay and as genteel as the best Dame in the Parish. Now you must observe by the way, that that Woman, who is once intoxicated with the Cup of Matrimony, is very strangely qualified, and differently tempered from most of her Sex, if she be not once in twenty four hours troubled with the Sullens or the Pouts (a Disease as natural to her as Gossiping, and both incurable) tho counterfeit and causeless; and where think you is the Scene of her Sullenness? why, assuredly in Bed, a place where Womens feigned Tears and Sighs have an excellent Faculty of persuasion; and now being brought to Bed, let us examine her Deportment, there she lies like the Statue of *Niobe* petrified, and for a time as senceless; whereupon the amorous Husband begins to accoast her with Accollado's and Embraces, asking her what is the matter, prethee, my Dear, (saith he) for he can forbear no longer, what ail'st thou? To whom she snappishly replies, let me alone, don't disturb me, I am very much indisposed, and have reason enough too, God

know

knows, but you never regard what I say or ſuffer, your Unkindneſs ſtick ſo cloſe to my heart, that nothing will remove it but Death; I'm ſure I ſhall never reſt, but in that place of undiſturbed Reſt (the only Dormitory of Mortals) the Grave: Deareſt! ſaith he, you pierce my very Heart, and wound me to the Soul with ſuch ſevere Language: Why, if I ſhould acquaint you with my Diſturbance, it were to no purpoſe; for I'm confident you would ſlight it, or which is as bad! think I have private ſelf-ends or deſigns in it: No, no, you ſhall tell me, I am reſolv'd, come what will on't: Well Sir, ſince you impoſe your Commands upon me, I will obey. You are not inſenſible I'm ſure, that not long ſince I was invited to a Collation, tho I had not gone but with your permiſſion and approbation; yet when I was there, with great grief I ſpeak it, I heartily wiſht my ſelf at home again; for there was not one Individual Woman in the whole Company tho of the meaneſt Rank, but was more gayly cloath'd than my ſelf; I do not ſpeak it out of Pride, tho, I think, I may ſay without Oſtentation, that I am as well extracted, have had as good Education, have as commendable a Face,

Car-

Carriage and Complexion, without the Artificial Embelliſhments of Paint, Patch and Powder, as the proudeſt ſhe of them all. As to my own particular, I ſolemnly proteſt, upon the Faith of an honeſt Woman, I do not value the outward Ornaments of Aparrel: For the gaudieſt Robes are but the Badges of our Sin and Shame: It is only for your Credit, and the Reputation of our Friends and Relations that I am ſo much concern'd. Prethee how glorioufly did they appear? Some in Flower'd Sattin Gowns, embroidered with Gold; Petticoats adorn'd with the beſt *Point de Veniſe*, attir'd with their Hair, and their ears adorn'd with coſtly Pendents, their Necks encompaſſed with Pearls, and the graver ſort in the beſt three-Pil'd Velvet; inſomuch that I, appearing only in my wedding Gown, and that, tho nigh worn out, the beſt Suit in my Ward-robe, could not forbear bluſhing all the time I was in Company; nay, that which troubled me moſt, was, that one or two of our Neighbours told me, they did admire my Husband was not aſhamed to ſee me go in ſo mean a Garb. To which the good man replies, Sweet Heart, you know, that we have been at great Charges to furniſh our ſelves ſo well

as we are; that Trading decays, Loſſ
have befallen us: I have a chargeable Su
at Law to defend next Term for the Re
covery of your Portion, which will co
me many a fair pound before I enjoy
Ay, ay, (quoth ſhe) I did imagine
much, and expect no other from yo
but (what I am now ſenſible to my So
row) Reproaches; and ſo in a Pet
flings out of his Arms with Scorn and I
dignation; pray let me alone, don't co
near me; and I'll aſſure you for the
ture, I'll never open my Lips to you ag
as long as I breath upon this accoun
therefore pray reſt ſatisfied: But ho
Love, are you angry without a cauſ
No, no, the contrary is too apparen
the Portion ſticks in my Stomach as w
as yours; had you had nothing with
I am not in a Capacity to beſtow a
thing upon you now, my Love and A
fection to you, methinks ſhould prev
ſuch Reflections; but you know, as m
as I was, that I was Courted by ſeve
before ever you made any Addreſs
me, who would have been glad with
their hearts to have married me with
ſo much as a Smock to cover my Shar
had not you interpos'd and gained
Heart, which now you ſtudy to pla

nd Torment. O unfortunate Woman hat I am! but I muſt be content with my hoice, and bear all as patiently as I can; would I were as deep in the ground as I m high, and then you would be rid of he, and I of my trouble: Really Love, ith the Novice, you do not well in uſing f me thus, ask what you pleaſe, and you all have it to the utmoſt of my Ability; t yet I muſt have a Care of the main hance: prethee turn to me my dear; r Gods ſake, let me be quiet; if you ought no more of fondneſs in this na- re, than I do, you would never come ear me more, I am not ſo Buſome, I'll ſure you: Ay, but Child, ſaith he, in Jocular way, if my Head were once laid, ou would ſoon be Married again, I war- nt you; would I, (ſaith ſhe) in truth, find ſo little Pleaſure or Comfort in a 'edded Condition, that if I were once married, I would be ſo far from it, that e beſt he, that ever laid Leg over Wo- an, ſhould never ſo much as touch my ps, as long as I have a day to live, take at from me, and be ſatisfied. With is kind of Diſſimulation ſhe entertains e Fop, who is both in Pleaſure and Pain once; in Pleaſure to think ſhe is ſo Cold d Chaſt a Wife; in Pain, becauſe he

ſees her ſo much diſturbed. Thus t
Treats him all Day with a Contract
Brow, and all Night with ſuch flatteri
Diſcourſes, not one good word is he wo
thy of, ſo that he is forced to beat
Brains for Money to purchaſe the R
Gown and Petticoat, the want of wh
is the Source and Original of both th
Diſcontents. Well! they muſt be h
quo jure, quoque injuria, by Hook, or
Crook, no ſlumber will ſeize upon
Eye-lids, till this be procured; away
goes, *ſuſque deque*, hand over head, taki
up upon Credit, Silks, Laces, Jew
and what not, and then returns home
Triumph, with the Spoil of the Merc
Shop, and calls down his Wife to ſur
the deſired Purchaſe; which ſhe no ſoo
ſpies, but like a cunning Baggage diſſe
bles, and ſays, Fy, Husband, in troth,
are now to blame, theſe are too rich V
ments for a Perſon of my Condition, t
will not at all become me, I fear: beſh
the hearts of thoſe lofty Dames, that
invented ſuch coſtly Apparel; I wo
not give ſix Pence for the beſt Gown t
ever Female Body was Tenant to:
however, ſince you have been ſo kind,
me beg one ſupernumerary favour of y
not to hit me in the Teeth hereafter w

, and ſay, I put you to this chargeable xpence; for upon my Reputation (and hat is not to be valued) it was none of ny intention; I deſire no other Garb than what is requiſite for Warmth and Decen-y. Now all is well, and the Man ſhall ave his Mare agen; they live lovingly nd quietly till the day (O that fatal ay!) of Payment; the Money cannot be rocur'd to ſtop the Mouths of his Cre-itors, who being diſappointed, uſe the tmoſt rigour of the Law againſt him, ſeize is Body and Goods, extend his Lands, arn his Wife a grazing into the wide Vorld, where ſhe has only the liberty of hooſing what Kingdom ſhe pleaſes to beg , and he, poor, undone Man, is clapt to a Goal, there to endure a cloſe and eggerly Confinement, *durante vita*; where e has time and room enough to lament is Deplorable Condition. The W[illegible]an e returns to her Friends, Curſing the our that ſhe was born in: never ſuch a ſgrace befel a Woman of her Birth and ducation. Alas! Alas! (ſaith ſhe) have ſtudied *œconomie* all my life long, and ta-en ſo much pains in governing my Fa-ily, been as ſparing as any good Wife the Pariſh, and all to keep both ends gether, and is it come to this at laſt? O

Death, come and put a Period to my l
fery! Thus the harmleſs Woman bemoa
her Misfortune, lays all the fault at
poor Man's door, (poor Man indeed) a
now he is faſt in the Net, and the m
he ſtruggles, the more he is intangled;
ſhort, he's laid up for his Life, and
Creditors, (for that's all they're like
have) may make Dice of his Bones.

The ſecond Comfort of Matrimony

IT is the Misfortune of ſome Men (a
thoſe ſome are too many, God w
to prepoſſeſs themſelves with a Conc
that Reaſon, Senſe and Demonſtrati
can never convince them of; ſuch is
caſe of the Husband that enjoys the
cond Comfort of Matrimony we are n
diſcourſing of, who will not be perſuad
by all the World, but ſhe is the Han
meſt Woman in it, tho he is much mi
ken; but I cannot blame him; for Beau
is nothing but meer Fancy, and if I co
ceit black and blew to be a comely Co
plexion, it is ſo to me: Having thus
his own Opinion Married a Fine W
man; he maintains her as finely: H

brisk humour inclines her to Visits, Treats and Jovial Meetings; tho this her Husband disrelisheth, but all to no purpose; for she's of a gadding temper, and out she must for Health and Recreation; but how to contrive the way to effect it quietly, *hic labor, hoc opus*; she is invited to a Feast, and a pretended Friend or Relation (who is no more of kin to her than *St. George* is to the Dragon) however he comes to her, and she Salutes him by the name of Cousin, good Cousin, dear Cousin! and her Mother, to palliate the business, calls him so too, she knowing the better how to manage that Amorous Affair, because it hath been her own Condition formerly; but the Husband is unwilling to have her go, alledging many faint and frivolous Excuses; yet to take off all Jealousie from the Good-Man, her Friend will say, in good Faith, Cousin, I have no mind at all to go this Feast, I have business to do, nor would I set a foot over the Threshold, God knows my heart, were it not for your and my the Cousins Credit; and you know 'tis neither Modest nor Modish, for a Gentlewoman of her Rank to bestow Visits without an Attendant; tho I am satisfied she is averse to any such kind of Promenade, or Collation; for of all Wo-

men, that ever I knew, when she is abroc
she makes such ado to come home, that
almost disturbs the Company. The fi
Fop now begins to encline and grant
Request; but first asks what Compa
they expect at this Entertainment? E
cellent Company indeed Cousin! th
will be your Mother-in-Law, my W
your Cousin, Mr. such a ones Daugh
and most of the good Neighbourhoo
Company fit for a Princess, Men and W
men of Quality. Well (quoth the M
you may go, for this once, but I hope y
don't intend to make a Trade on't, ha
a care of your self, and be sure you do
bring Night home with you. Leave bei
thus obtained, the subtle Lady feigns
unwillingness, saying, indeed Love!
care not for going out at present, let
intreat you that I may stay at Home; h
he, having a great Confidence in the C
sin, says, nay, nay, sweet Heart, I wo
not have you so ungentile, as to disappo
your Neighbours, since you are ready, a
the Assignation is pre-design'd, preth
Child go; whereupon away she frisks l
Lightning with her Cousin-Gallant, fle
ing all the way at the contented one
home, saying, that he has some small sm
of Jealousie, (and a great deal of Real

for it). To the Place they come, and are no sooner arrived, but she is Nobly received for her Husband's sake, Treated with Airs, Balls, Banquets, and a thousand pretty little Frolicks and amorous Gambals, not fit to be here mentioned: All her Lovers are now met together, like Flies in Summer, every one intending to have a lick at her Honey-pot; every one putting forward, as he finds opportunity. One Complements her at a very Modish rate; the other Presents her with a rich Diamond; one gives her the gentle Tread on the Toe, *en passant*, as the *Frenchman* hath it; the other gives her the amorous Squeeze of the Hand; another leaning dispondently upon his Elbow, reaches her with a languishing Eye; So that she must needs be void of all Sense, if she depart without understanding all their good intentions. Thus every Spark endeavours (as much as in him lies) to make her Husband bear the *Turkish* Ensign of Christian Matrimony in the Van; which at last proves the occasion of her shame and his sorrow; for either by the mis-management, or mis-timing of her Amorous Designs, or the discovery of her Frolicks by some special Friend or Relation, the Husband comes to understand the whole

Truth, and nothing but the Truth, whi
drives him into a ſtrange Paroxyſm
Profound Melancholy, that all the Hell
bore among the *Anticyræ* can never rec
ver him: if he attempt to ſtrike her, th
won't do, but only add fuel to her Fir
that will take off her Affection, ſo that ſ
will never dally with him, but only
paſs away the time for want of bett
Company, and make uſe of him only
a Cloak to ſhrowd and conceal her Laſ
viouſneſs. Thus is the poor Gentlem
ſenſible of the Second Matrimonial Sola
being now faſt bound to *Ixion*'s Wheel
Miſery, where he muſt live in a moſt la
guiſhing, and die in a very miſerable Co
dition.

The third Comfort of Matrimony.

THE Youngſters of this Wanton Ag
are ſo high-fed, live ſo much at eaſ
their Bloud is ſo plentiful and ſprightl
that they cannot contain themſelves lon
without an Evacuation of the Extrav
gancies of the Fourth Concoction, an
ſo muſt take a Wife (the Remedy ofte
times proving worſe than the Diſeaſe
an

and eagerly purſue their own Miſery and Diſcontent; For our young Couple being Married, at the uſual time the Teeming Bonny Girl grows big, tho poſſibly (as it too frequently falls out) not by the ſuppoſed Father; and now he begins to underſtand the Miſery, Trouble and Affliction of a wedded Life; now muſt the poor Fellow trot all about the Town on his Wife's Errands, to purchaſe all things that may pleaſe her, if poſſible; for ſhe begins to be ſqueemiſh, her Stomack fails, grows weak and peeviſh, like her ſelf, and nothing will down with her but what is of the beſt; now he muſt trudge about night and day, ranſack Heaven and Earth for Delicacies to cheriſh and comfort her, and empty his Purſe to fill her Paunch with Dainties; and this pleaſant life muſt be led for ſix or ſeven Moneths together, while his Wife Pampers her Carcaſs at home, and can ſcarce get a good word for his pains (a poor Gratuity for his kindneſs) nay probably, complains ſhe is not ſo carefully provided for, as other Women in her Condition; altho the poor Man riſes early, goes to Bed late, and eats the Bread of Carefulneſs, contriving all ways poſſible, for the proviſion of his Family; but this is not all, the time of her falling

in pieces draws near, and here the poo
Fellow is expoſed to a world of Charr
and Trouble; out he muſt to procure Go
fathers and God-mothers, and ſuch as ſ
approves of too, for in this he is not
low'd the freedom of his own Election
the Midwife muſt be fetcht, dry and w
Nurſes provided (a ſort of chargeable Slu
who will lap up more good Liquor in o
day, than the good Husband ſwallows
a whole Week) in ſhort, her Throes co
very thick upon her, and ſhe is ſurround
with a Crew of Goſſiping Neighbour
the Good-man in the mean time is at h
Devotion for her ſafe Delivery, whi
being over, then all his Care is to plea
the Woman in the Straw, and her Twa
ling Companions, who eat and dri
merrily, and he ſpares no coſt to entert
them, and if any thing diſpleaſes ther
'tis forty to one, but one of the Goſſi
ſtarts up and ſays; in troth, Mrs. I do v
ry much wonder, and ſo does all t
Company, that your Husband takes
more care of you and your Child, eſpe
ally being your Firſt-born; what wou
he do, I trow, had you five or ſix? ſa
another, I'll aſſure you, if my Husba
ſhould ſerve me ſo, I would ſtudy Nig
and Day to be reveng'd of him; Indee

ſa

says a third, I would not have you put up this Affront patiently; for if he serves you thus at the first, his usage will be coursser to you hereafter. Cousin, says a fourth, I admire that you, being so discreet a Woman, and of a good Family, that you can endure his unworthy behaviour to your, especially in this weakly condition: Alas! replies the Wife, I know not what to do with him, he is so cross and unkind to me. Upon my word, saith the other, he is an ill-natur'd Man, that he is not here in person to attend on this good company: Then starts up a Bold, Imperious Housewife, and thus begins to chatter; All the Neighbours here know very well, it was a common Rumour of my Husband, that he was the untowardest Man in the World, and would often threaten to break my bones, and be the death of me; but I thank my Stars for it, and my undaunted Spirit together, that I have tam'd him sufficiently; I have brought him now to that pass, that he dares as well eat his Nails, as do any thing to disoblige me. 'Tis very true, when we were first Married he began to be Lofty and Malepert, but I pluckt up a good Spirit, set my foot in the Stirrup, rode him with a Bit and a Snaffle, till I quite tired, and cur'd him.

him of his Restly, Skittish Humour: insc
much that he has confest, there is no goo
to be done with me by foul means: nay
if he had kill'd me, I was resolv'd neve
to Truckle under him; and now I ca
say, and do what I please, without th
least Contradiction; for I will have th
last word, right or wrong; so that no
he crosses the Cudgels to me, and submits
nay, I will assure you Gentlewomen, there
no Man living, how perverse soever, bu
his Wife may bring him to be Complai
sant, if she take right measures, and ma
nage him with Discretion; therefore, pra
Neighbour, when your Husband come
Home, ring him such a Peal as may mak
his Ears glow, and his Heart ake, or you'
never get the better on him as long as yo
have a day to live. Thus these Gossipin
Baggages, having cloy'd 'emselves wit
good Wine, and plentiful Chear, abuse th
poor Man for his Pains, and by their ad
vice set the Husband and Wife at vari
ance, the Curse of parting Man and Wif
light on them for their pains. Well be
ing thus gorged with Edibles and Pota
bles, away they go, and leave the Woman
to play her part according to their goodly
Instructions. At length Home the Husband
returns, having undergone the Drudge-

ry,

ry of the Day with Care and Pains, and no ſooner enters his own Doors, but enquires how his Wife does; the Nurſe, like an Inſtructed Diſſembling Slut, makes anſwer, that ſhe is in a very weak condition, and this bout had like to have coſt her Life; I have tended ſeveral in my time, but your Wife is the weakeſt Woman I ever look'd to in all my Life; thus they Teaze the fooliſh Man, who cannot reſt till he hath ſeen his Wife; into the Chamber he goes, and the firſt Salutation is, how is't my Dear? Truly Love, very ſick and weak; I am very ſorry for it; and fear you faſt too much: I cannot eat, my Appetite is Pall'd and gone: Well, I will order you ſome Gelly-broths and Caudles to comfort you; which he does accordingly, and ſends 'em to her: Thus tir'd with running about all day long, he calls for ſome Refreſhment, which is brought him, being only the Reverſions of the Servants, which he is content with, whilſt his Wife is cheriſh'd with coſtly and comfortable Draughts, he only ſwells his empty Maw, with Flatulent and Sower Sixes, and ſo Bed he packs up with his Head full of care and ſleep; in the Morning up he gets by Break of Day, viſits his Wife, and asks her how ſhe reſted; alas! (ſaith ſhe) I have

have not so much as closed my eyes, had one wink of sleep all this Night, th she rested as well and soundly as if she ha taken a Dose of *Opium*. My Heart, sai he, the Gossips will be here to day, yo must make much of them, and should thin of rising to entertain them; for you ha kept your Bed above a Fortnight; Lov we must be as saving as we can, Charg are great, and I have much ado to ke both ends together. Think of Rising (say the Wife) a Curse on the Hour was born! O, that I had died in Labou and then there had been an end of me! it come to this indeed; must I rise alre dy, and am not able to stand upon m Leggs? Do you long to see me drudgin about the House before I am able to creep You are a very kind Man, a most lovin Husband indeed; I find now you wi me dead, so do I too. Well! well! I a content to Rise to Morrow, come on what will; I do very well foresee what must undergo for the time to come; wha would you do, if I had ten or twelve Chi dren, which God forbid, and if it be h will, I hope this is the last? but Goo will be done. As for Gossips coming t see me, I had rather they would stay a Home, and so they would if they knew hov

litt

little their Viſits pleaſe me; nor would you your ſelf (if you had any reſpect for me) promote their coming, when here were Twenty Diſcreet Women at leaſt, who came to ſee me with a great deal of Kindneſs and Reſpect, and the Chear you provided for them, I would be aſhamed to ſet before their Servants; this is truth, Sir, I ſaw it with my own eyes, overwhelm'd with Tears, to hear that they ſhould in a ſlighting, ſcoffing way take notice of it. Well, My Dear, you are ſoon moved I find to Paſſion, tho I give you no occaſion; but ſatisfie you ſelf, that henceforth, I ſhall be content that you pleaſe your ſelf, and riſe when you think it convenient. Do what you pleaſe, Sir, only I beg of you to talk to me no longer; for I am very full of Pain, and would deſire you to ſend to our Neighbours not to come becauſe I am ſo much indiſpoſed; Love, ſays he, they ſhall come, and be well Treated too; for Gods ſake let me alone, and do what you will. Then one of the Nurſes attaques him with her deceitful Tongue, pray Sir, do not force my Miſtreſs to ſpeak. it is very dangerous; for ſhe is a very weak Woman, and if the Wind gets into her Head, it will do her an irreparable Injury (O brave Doctreſſes!) then

then ſhe draws the Curtains, and the Wi
and the Husband are not yet Reconcil'c
however ſhe expects the Goſſips, wh
will act their parts ſo effectually, and gi
him ſuch Flouts and Jeers, which will
tame him, that he may be eaſily led a
where by the Noſe for ever after. How
ver away he goes and makes Proviſion f
them in a more plentiful manner, by re
ſon of the Reproof he received from h
Wife. The Gentlewomen at the time a
po'nted appear, he welcomes them all, an
conducts them to his Wife's Chamber
where they and the ſick Woman Eat an
Drink heartily, to a more than becomin
Feſtivity, and Flirt and Joke with th
Maſter of the Houſe, till they have qui
diſpirited him, and made him a me
Mamma Mouchey; ſo that now he is co
tent to do any thing for a quiet Life, dan
dle the Brat in his Arms, dry the pi
Clouts on his Horns, for fear the Nur
curſe him, or elſe his Wife (having g
the better end of the Staff) tell him plain
ly, he ſhall never more enter her Premiſe
This comfortable Life he muſt lead; h
Wife muſt be maintained at a high rat
and have her Will in all things; he mu
live Meanly and Penuriouſly, having h
will in nothing; and thus he is caught i
th

the Net, where he ſtruggles to no purpoſe, for there he muſt Live, in ſpight of Fate, Deſpicably, and die Wretchedly.

The fourth Comfort of Matrimony.

WHen a Man hath been ſo Injurious to himſelf as to abandon a ſingle Life, and run headlong upon Marriage, without any Reaſon or Senſe; and having lived in the ſtate of Matrimony for the ſpace of ten or twenty years, hath his Table ſurrounded with Children, and the black Ox hath trod upon his Foot, all that he can do, is only to keep the Wolf from the door, Charges daily increaſing; and among them three or four Daughters Marriageable, but not as yet diſpoſed of, whoſe good Qualities (I mean Pride and Inſolence) are too Notorious to the World, and the Father hath little, or no Portion to beſtow upon them; he, poor Gentleman, muſt be in a kind of Troubleſome Condition; for his Daughters muſt be maintained gentilely at home, and well attired when they go abroad *a la Mode*, for theſe three Reaſons:

First,

First, That they may be the ſooner p off, and by their Mincing Gate, and G Garb, bait ſome Spark or other into t Net of Marriage.

Secondly, If their Father be Hide-boun and will not do it, he ſhall have his Han and his Heart full, and they will do lit or nothing for him, preſuming upon th Mother, who countenanceth them in doing, like a dutiful Wife,

Thirdly, The young Women in t Neighborhood are maintained finely, a well habited, and ſo muſt they to, and w not, as well as other mens Children, of t ſame Rank and Quality?

Thus is the Man wearied out of H Life, if he drudge not in the World ſupport their Pride and Vanity, tho prob bly to their utter Ruine: ſometimes beats the hoof twenty or thirty Miles bout buſineſs, or, if he be Maſter of Horſe, rides at other times 100, to atter the Parliament, or Courts in Term-tir about a Law-ſuit, which hath been d pending from his Child-hood, ſo that is forced, to ſave Charges, to go ve meanly accoutred, having a pair of Boo Nine or ten Years old, and ſo often vamp and mended, that, like *Drake*'s Ship, th have not one piece of their firſt Material

H

his Spurs were made in *Harry 8th*'s time, and one of them wants the great girgling Rowel: His Cloathes ſo mean and aged, that they will ſcarce hang together by the aſſiſtance of Patching, ſo as to cover his Nakedneſs, or keep his body from the injury of the Weather: The Sword he wears is a Hacking Morglay, which ſome of his Anceſtors took at the Siege of *Troy*: His Beaſt carries behind him an old Knapſack, that his Fore-fathers uſed at the Siege of *Bouloigne*; the Livery he gives is well known, for the Antiquity thereof, both in City and Country, the Coat being worn ſo ſhort that it ſcarce reaches the Pocket-holes, and in good faith, 'tis like to be long enough, e'r it be longer: In ſhort, thus he lives ſparingly abroad, to balance the great Expences at Home, whither he returns with a heavy Heart, and a light Purſe, the Lawyers, Attorneys, Sollicitors and Bailiffs having ſufficiently purg'd his Bags, and ſent him away with a Flea in his Ear. Being arrived at his own Apartment, behold now his comfortable Reception, his kind Welcome by his Wife! who aſſoon as ſhe eſpies him, inſtead of Embracing, treats him with a ſower Countenance, finds fault with ſome miſcarriage in the Houſe, ſtamps and ſtorms like a *Bethlemite*,

the

the Servants being all at her Beck, dare n
give any Reſpect or Attendance: nay, t
good-natur'd Elf, dares not open H
mouth for any thing, till the Storm is
ver, bears all patiently, without the le
noiſe, to prevent diſturbance in his Fam
ly, and ſets him down ſome diſtance fro
the Fire, tho very cold, ſhe and her Ch
dren keeping all the heat from him;
length being moved with her Dogged a
Curriſh Uſage toward him, he may ſa
Methinks Miſtreſs, you look very ſu
upon me, as if I had offended you, pr
get me ſomewhat to refreſh me, for
am almoſt ſpent and tir'd off of my Le
being wet to the skin, having neither E
nor Drunk this day, and yet you cannot
much as afford me a pleaſant look: Y
ſaith ſhe, I had need take care of you i
deed, you have ſpun a fair Thread, I ha
loſt more by my Hemp and Flax fi
your abſence, then you will get theſe f
years, by taking your Man along wi
you, ſo that I had no body to help me
Soak or Whiten it; beſides I have oft
wiſht you, ſince your departure, at t
Devils Arſe of Peak, that you did not ſt
the holes in the Hen-hoſe, for the ſtin
ing Pole-Cat hath eaten three of my b
Laying Hens, whoſe loſs is not ſo incon
dera

derable as you imagine, and if you ſteer this Courſe, you will be certainly one of the pooreſt Men in your Family: Pray, ſaith he, Miſtreſs, don't you give me ſuch Language, God be praiſed, I am content with what I have, and ſhall have more if it be his will, beſides, there are ſtill ſome charitable, good People in my Family: Good, for what, ſays, ſhe, for nothing? I know but few of them, if any, worth the mentioning: Ay, ſaith the Husband, I ſay good People: And what good do they do you? what good? as much good as yours: ſay you ſo, ſweet Sir, but I'll be bold to tell you to your Teeth, and ſpit in the face of thoſe that ſhall dare to oppoſe it, that yours had been a poor ſtock, had it not been for the frequent Supplies of my Friends and Relations, and if they ſhould hear you ſay half ſo much to me, they would tell you your own, in good faith, would they. Well! prethee ſweet heart (ſaith he) be not ſo High, let us leave off this Diſcourſe: and ſo he is forced to acquieſce, for fear his Friends ſhould be acquainted therewith. But the Fray is not yet over, for it happens that one of the little Children falls a crying, and as it falls out, 'tis the Father's Darling, whom he whips ſeverely, more to ſpite him, than

any thing elſe; prethee Woman, ſaith he, why are you ſo ſharp with the Child in the Devil's name, ſaith ſhe, what c you concern your ſelf, you are not at th trouble of bringing them up, or lookin after them? that is my Drudgery Nigh and Day, as long as I am able to ſtan upon my Legs; ſhame on you muſt I b thus controul'd, that I muſt not correct m own Child? if I take him up agen, I'll fl him, and do you ſeek your Remedy. Th ſays the Nurſe, indeed Sir, you are not home to ſee it, nor do you know what heavy hand my Lady has in bringi them up: by my faith (ſaith the Cham bermaid) it is a ſtark ſhame, that wh you come home, inſtead of our rejoyci at your Company, you create nothing b Diſturbance and Noiſe among us; Noi ſaith the Lady, go you Fool, this is n thing in compariſon of what I have tak at his Hands, and muſt do ſo ſtill, as lo as it pleaſeth my good God. Thus t whole Family, by the inſtigation of t Miſtreſs, is up in Arms againſt their M ſter, who creeps to Bed Supperleſs a Comfortleſs, the Children in the Nig bawling about his ears, that he can ta no reſt, which is done on purpoſe diſturb him; thus he ſpends his d

n Care, his Nights in Torment; and ſo we leave him to enjoy the Fruits of his Folly.

The fifth Comfort of Matrimony.

LOve or Luſt, call it what you pleaſe, may be counted (if at all) pardonable in Young; but in Old Men not to be endur'd; when they have exhauſted their *humidum radicale*, their Bodies being invaded by Rheum, and thoſe many Infirmities that attend Old Age. This is the Caſe at preſent of our Grave Senior who is Married to a Young Brisk Girl of a Nobler Extract than himſelf; but certainly there is reaſon in this, for ſhe might have been Matcht to a far greater advantage, but her Friends were forced to diſpoſe of her to any one (God wot) being but of a crackt Reputation, and having had a ſhrew'd Miſchance, the effect of her Youthful Wantonneſs; and tho this hath been frequently diſcours'd of about the Town, yet the doting Cornuto, is too Credulous to believe any ſuch Rampant Storſes, but ſtands highly in her Vindication. Thus he, being well ſtricken in

years, abandons all sorts of Pleasures, a
only studies to turn the Penny to adva
tage, that he may maintain her accordi
to her port, Gentilely: but his Lady
ing of a Generous Temper, and in
Vigour of her Youth, is no way incli
able to that close-fisted humour of her
varicious Bedfellow, but resolved to p
her time jovially, and swim in Delig
and Pleasure. To this purpose her f
Intrigue is to get a Gallant, which is so
done by the opportunities She has at Tre
and Meetings, whether She daily rambl
and an Assignation being made, they
ress and embrace one another without co
troul or Suspicion; for her Honour m
be still preserved untainted; and havi
diverted themselves with all the Amor
Sports and Love-Toys, that Wantonn
ever could invent, the next Diversion
to Droll at her Aged Husband, who
buffooned on all sides by all Persons, b
more particularly and bitterly by her I
diship. Well! home she returns, big wi
expectation of her Gallants appointed V
sit the next Morning, and to Bed wi
her Husband She goes, with as much lo
as the Devil has for Holy Water; and
that time his frozen Limbs are somewh
thaw'd with natural heat, the Cuckol

C

Goat muſt be up and at her; but She pre-
tends She is very ill, drowſie and incli-
nable to ſleep; therefore pray (ſaith She)
let me alone, you will infinitely oblige me,
if you will forbear till Morning, and then
I ſhall be fit for your ſervice; at which
the Old Oaf turns for fear of diſpleaſing
her; whoſe Head runs upon nothing but
Meeting with her Friend, and contrives
withal, (conſulting with her Pillow)
how to put off the Old Man, that he ſhall
not touch her, when Morning comes;
which ſhe cunningly effects, as followeth;
Either ſhe riſes very early, leaves the old
Gentleman faſt (for Age is Childiſh, and
conſequently ſleepy for the moſt part) and
is ſatisfied or tired with her Gallant, be-
fore Father Graybeard awakes: and then
ſummageth about the Houſe playing the
Good Houſewife ſeemingly: or otherwiſe,
ſhe does not riſe at all; but before day ap-
pears, ſhe ſighs and groans on purpoſe, that
the good Gentleman may hear her, who
preſently asks her how ſhe is: indeed love,
ſaith ſhe, I have ſuch a pain in my ſide,
accompanied with the Gripes, that I can
take no reſt, I think it is my old Diſtem-
per: prethee, ſweet heart, turn to me:
upon my faith, my Dear, I am all in a ſweat
and dare not for fear of catching cold,

which may coſt me my life, being of a w
Conſtitution: then he covers her cloſe
bids her be careful of her ſelf, and he w
take care of her Houſhold-Affairs: up
gets without Fire or Candle, yet procu
her a fire againſt her riſing: thus ſhe ta
her eaſe, and laughs in her ſleeve at
Old Mans Folly, when he underſtands
is up, he comes to ſee her very lovin
and begins to be Amorous, but ſhe hav
a mind to diſappoint him, ſays, would
were God's Will that you would ne
meddle with me, till I did ask you:
would you not then, ſays he? no, u
my Conſcience, Love, I think not, and
I known but as much before, I would
ver have Married: Why then did
Marry, ſaith he? indeed Love, I know
I was but a Young Girl and did it in o
dience to the Commands of my Paren
what is the meaning on't, ſweet heart,
are always in this humour? I do
know, but indeed, Love, were it no
pleaſe you, I would never be troubled w
due Benevolence, as you call it: thus
wheedles the ſuperannuated Fop int
ſtrange conceit of her Chaſtity: ſo t
this perſwaſion increaſeth the Flame of
Affection, which he thinks can never
extinguished. But now obſerve the dam

ubtilty of a wily Woman, who never wants one contrivance or other to chouſe any one she hath a mind to pleaſe. If she has a mind to Cajole him out of Cloaths, Rings, Jewels, Moneys, or any thing that she fancies, the Scene is quite altered; then, when they are both warm in Bed, how the diſſembling Gipſie Kiſſes, Hugs and Squeeſes him in her Arms, till his old bones rattle in his skin, and helps his aged Heavineſs with her youthful Activity, ſo that the old Man is in a kind of Extaſie, to find her ſo prodigal of her Favour and Kindneſs; prethee my Dear! (ſaith ſhe) have a great care of your ſelf, for my ſake, as well as your own; for my Life is bound up with yours, and one Grave muſt contain us both: Would to God I had no other Paradiſe on this ſide Heaven but to be Incombed in your Arms, this I ſpeak cordially, God is my Witneſs; and if any Man did ever touch my Lips, but your ſelf, and my Couſin, (and you allow of that by commanding me to do it,) then let my Puniſhment be never to receive Kiſs or Embrace from you more, and that I am ſure would ſoon break my poor Heart; for I am confident there is not a ſweeter Natured Man in the Univerſe, than you are. No, Love, ſaith he, except the Gentle-

man that Courted you before me: P
Pish, says she, upon my Honour, I w
smitten with you the first time I saw y
tho at a distance, I may very safely sw
it was Love at first sight; I think it wa
Match made in Heaven; for my Fat
would have Married me to that Gentlem
but I would never consent to it; I
give no reason for it, but it was Decr
it should be so. Thus she procures w
she designed, tho at never so dear a r
and this kind of Caressing soon opens
Miser's Coffers, who knows her temp
so well, that she will never give over
she has her will, whatsoever it costs. N
she begins, being furnished, to think
other things; her Gallant, that she f
merly maintained, must like her overw
Apparel, be laid aside, and a new, rich c
embraced; but she is too crafty to be
forward, and keeps him at a bay so
time, refuseth his Presents and Visits,
her Plots are brought to Maturity: T
young Gentleman is Enamoured, a
wants an opportunity to meet with
Maid, which he soon obtain: Sweet-hea
quoth he, I must have a little Talk w
you; that you may, Sir, if you please: y
know (saith he) the ex.ream Passion t
I have for your Lady, do you think th

is any possibility of obtaining my desires? Did she ever mention me since the last interview? In truth, Sir, she never opens her Lips, but to your Commendation, and I am satisfied she wishes you well: Well, Child! I do wholly confide in you, do but have me so much in your thoughts, as now and then to speak a good word for me, and you shall be no loser by it; I will bestow a new Gown upon you, and here are five Guineys to buy you Gloves: Excuse me, Sir, saith she, I shall not take them; but indeed, Sweet-Heart, you shall, and so at length, with some little perswasion, like a right Maid, she crys Nay, and takes it: Away she hastens to her Lady, and acquaints her, that she had met with her Gallant: well, and what says he? Why, faith, Madam, I think he is a little Lunatick upon your account, for he neither knows what he does or says: But how dost thou like him, Girl? good Faith, Madam, I look upon him to be the most Comely, Complete Gentleman that ever I set my eye on in my Life, and I am of Opinion, that he will be a very Fond and Faithful Lover: nay, he is a Gentleman every Inch of him, hath a very good Estate, and is able to Gratifie your Kindnesses, by which Means you may embrace

a Happy and Comfortable Piece of Gall
try, as long as you have the enjoymen
each others Society. Introth I am a
loſs, almoſt at my Wits end, I can
nothing out of my Husband, but what
abſolutely neceſſary: Pray, Madam, C
ſider of it, for I promiſed to return him
anſwer to morrow: But how Girl, sh
we curry this Horſe? how shall we m
nage this Affair? As for that, Madam,
me alone I beſeech you, I shall meet h
to Morrow-morning, and then I'll tell h
plainly, that you would not ſo much
lend the leaſt Ear to my Diſcourſe, or co
ſent to any thing requeſted (do what
could) being ſo tender of your Hono
and Reputation, and I am ſure I can A
a Diſſembling Part pretty well. In t
Morning, after she had made him atte
two Hours at leaſt, they meet together
cording to Appointment. How now, Swe
Heart, ſays the Gallant, how is it wi
your Lady? She is very Thoughtful a
Penſive, full of Grief and Sorrow for t
ill Uſage of her Husband, who is ſo wic
ed a Man to her, that it is not to be b
lieved what the Poor Gentlewoman u
dergoes: I am ſorry for't (quoth h
with all my Heart; but what did yo
Lady ſay to you? upon my Faith, Sir,
ſpa

ſpake to her, for which I have gained a great deal of ill Will; ſhe would not ſo much as hear me, nor conſent to any thing propos'd, ſo highly doth ſhe prize her Reputation, and if ſhe had a mind to be kind to her Neighbours, and Love them as her ſelf, ſhe is under an *Italian* ſlavery, being ſo kept in and Watcht by the old Lump of Jealouſie her Husband. I do not remember, that ſhe ever exchanged a word with any Man in Diſcourſe, ſince I have waited upon her, and I have been her Servant theſe four years and upwards, but only with your ſelf the other day, whom ſhe remembers ſtill, and for ought I know, to be plain with you, would ſooner love you, than any other in the World. Dear Child, (ſaith he) bring but that about, and I'll be your Eternal Friend. Truly Sir (ſaith ſhe) I have done already all that lies in my power as to that, and dare not attempt any further, but in any thing elſe feaſeable, Command me, and I'm your Servant. Prethee, adviſe me what to do in this Caſe: Why, your beſt way will be to make an Addreſs to her your ſelf, and now is the moſt Critical time in the World; for ſhe and her Husband are at Variance, and you will find her at Church, where you may make your Amours to her, Careſs

her, and present her, tho I'm confide
she'll refuse all; but no matter for th
she'll have a greater Esteem for you, no
withstanding her Denial, and will set
higher value upon your Generosity a
Worth than you can possibly imagine,
as I counsel you, and so all happiness a
tend you (Sanctified Advice indeed in
Sanctified a Place, to make the Church
Brothel-House, and Religion a Pander
fordid Lust!) when you have acted yo
part, as I have told you, (saith this Sh
Emissary of the Devil) give me what yo
intend her as a Present, and I will so o
der the matter, that she shall accept of i
or do my utmost endeavour, tho I lose m
labour. You say very well, my Dea
Child! and so they part. Away runs th
Gigling Baggage, and smiling at her Lady
upon my Soul, Madam, there are a gre
many Persons in the World, who woul
wish for your Happiness; for he is resolv
to Accost you, and discover his whol
mind; now summon all your discretio
together, let this be your *dernier effort*, a
the *Frenchman* terms it; carry your sel
strangely to him, and hold him in sus
pense for a time; for you know, 'tis Ex
pectation makes a Blessing dear; but b
sure you be not so severe in your Deport
men

iment as to Dash the Young Gentleman quite out of Countenance. Thus full freighted with hopes, she hastens to Church, stimulated by Lechery, rather than Devotion; where arrived, her Gallant attaques her, but she will consent to nothing, nor accept of his Presents; however she entertains him so favourably, that he may plainly discover her Affection to be more than ordinary: so they take leave with a light heart, and the Lady and her waiting Gentlewoman Consult how to manage the Business cleanlily without suspicion: I am satisfied, Madam, saith her Maid, that he has a longing desire to be wrapt up in your Embraces, and I will tell him my Master is gone into the Country for some time, and bring him the backway to your Chamber, in the deepest silence of the Night, (the Securest time for such Secresies) yet so that you shall seem to be altogether ignorant of my Design, and Counterfeit a real Passion for so strange and unworthy a surprisal, and withal acquaint him that you will cry out, and call upon me, and what he presents you with by my hands, do you obstinately refuse at first; Chide me for it before his face, press me to return it, but yet I hope you will have the grace at last to accept it, for

in truth there is no dealing with Men, b
by out-doing them in Female-Craft, t
only weapons we have to defend our ſelv
againſt that Sex. Now this cunning Wen
finds out the Gallant, who asks her wh
News? In ſhort Sir (ſaith ſhe) not
Trifle away time, which is very precio
if I could prevail with her to accept t
preſent you intend her, the Buſineſs wou
be done effectually, aad to your ſatisfac
on; the Gallant being raviſhed with h
Diſcourſe, immediately puts fifty Guine
into her Hand, as a preſent of his Affec
on to her Lady. Well Sir (ſath ſhe) I w
undertake one thing more, for I know m
Lady has a kindneſs for you; therefo
come you the back way, in the dead tim
of the Night, now my Maſter is abſen
and I will convey you to her Chambe
ſhe being Childiſh and conſequently Sle
py, you will have the better opportuni
to uncloath your ſelf, and to Bed to h
without Delay, or Ceremony, and in a
probability the buſineſs will be done; fo
when you both are naked in one Bed, an
in the dark too, there is no Diſpute
prevailing: come, come Sir! Women a
Fleſh and Bloud, as well as Men, and ſub
ject to Failings as well as they: I qu
ſtion not but you know the old Proverb

Fair

Faint Heart ne'r won Fair Lady, therefore be Brisk and Active, and you need not despair of obtaining your desire, I'll pawn my Reputation for it. The Lady is informed of all Passages between them, the Presents are accepted, and the Chamber-maid finds the Lover at the Place and Time appointed. Conveys him to her Ladies Chamber, and so leaves him: Now you may imagine that his Desires being winged with Love, he was not long disrobing himself, but steals into Bed, and embraces her in his Arms, at which she seems to startle out of a feigned slumber, and says, what, my Dear, is it you? No, Madam, it is I, says the Gallant? how you? saith she, who are you? this is not to be endured; whereupon she struggles to rise, calls upon her Gentlewoman, twice or thrice, but alas! to no purpose: and great pity 'tis, that in such a time of Necessity the Maid would give her no answer: Ah! (saith she) I'm betray'd, and struggles for it, till her breath fail'd her, so that she was at his Mercy, who treated her very kindly, she enjoying such gentle usage as she expected, and they both design'd; yet, to speak the truth, Men are to blame for these rude Assaults: and what could a poor, weak Woman do alone, who durst

durſt not cry out as loud as ſhe would, fe
fear of loſing her Reputation? but to mak
the beſt of a bad Market, here's their com
fort ſtill, the Curtains cannot, and the Mai
dares not tell any Tales. Thus they mac
the beſt improvement of their time, an
when they had ſufficiently ſolaced 'emſelv
parted amicably, till they ſhould have a
opportunity to re-enjoy their delights, th
next Aſſignation. But at length by ſome un
lucky accident or other, old *Erra Pater*, th
Husband, comes to be certainly informe
of the whole matter, and indeed mor
than he car'd to hear, which puts him int
a Raving Jealous Fit of Melancholy; h
ſtamps and ſtares like one diſtracted; bu
ſhe being now fleſhed with Luſt, and ſea
ſoned with impudence, gives him as gooc
as he brings, upbraids him with his beg
gerly Relations, laughs him to ſcorn, anc
this is the only Mirth he is like to enjoy
with a continuando, till at laſt dried up
with grief, and ſhrivl'd with Age h
brings his Gray-hairs with ſorrow to th
Grave.

The sixth Comfort of Matrimony.

THE next Married Couple we meet with enjoy the Comforts of Matrimony, as much as any of the five preceeding: and here it is the fortune of a Man, o be Wedded to a Woman of so cross nd domineering a Temper, that she will wear the Breeches and the Cap too, o that the poor Fop at Home is like *John* Hold-my-staff, she must Rule, Govern, nsult, Brawl, understand all concerns at ome and abroad, answer all businesses, manage all Affairs, tho she be never so vell maintained, and want for nothing, et he must be in the Family like a meer Cypher, and her whole delight and design s to Plague and Torment him. And hus she begins; when they have past away the Night very sportingly, and enoy'd the delights of the Marriage Bed, as ll good People ought to do, her Husband eaves her in a very good humour, to dress nd Trim her self up, he, in the mean time, vhile she is Tricking, takes care of the Domestick Affairs, and when Dinner is ready

ready, ſends for his Wife to accomp
him; but word is brought ſhe will
Dine to day, go agen (ſaith he) and
her come, the Maid does ſo, and tells
Miſtreſs. my Maſter deſires you to co
go and tell him once more, that I will
come: the Good man is not ſatisfied w
this anſwer, but ſends a third time, but
no purpoſe; ſo that at length he goes hi
ſelf, and asks her why ſhe will not com
Dinner? not a word will ſhe give him; w
ail'ſt thou, my Dear? not a Syllable will
return, but Pout and Frown, he inquires
the Family what is the Reaſon, but cann
receive any ſatisfaction; when as the tru
is, ſhe ailes nothing, but only reſolves
be Dogged, and perhaps will not come
Dinner, do what he can; at other tim
poſſibly he may prevail with her, wh
he hath begged ſo long till the meat
ſpoiled at the Fire, or cooled on the T
ble, and then he leads her to Dinner, b
ſhe has no ſtomach, not one Morſel w
go down, and he like a Fop, to comp
with her froward humour, will faſt lik
wife, but the more fool he, for the mo
kindneſs he ſhews her, the more ſhe ſligh
him; and in my Opinion, ſhe is to
commended, for what need any Wom
Court his favour, that doates upon her a

ready

ready? If he ſhould deſpiſe and contemn her, then ſhe had reaſon to ſerue her ſelf into his affection, if poſſible. Another trick ſhe has to vex him, and that is this, when he is abroad, he ſometimes accidentally meets with ſome of his intimate acquaintance, to whom he is infinitely obliged, and has a deſign to Treat them at his own Houſe, which is more Gentile, and leſs chargeable than at the Tavern; away he ſends his Servant to her, who when he comes, ſays, Miſtreſs, my Maſter will be here in the Evening with three or four Friends, Perſons of good Repute, and deſires you would provide every thing neceſſary for their reception. Upon my faith (ſaith ſhe) not I, I will have nothing to do with his Treats, why did he not come himſelf? I don't know that, Miſtreſs, but this he commanded me to tell you: Go, go, you are a very Rogue, and meddle with that, that does not concern you. Well, to ſhew her readineſs and obedience, ſhe firſt ſends all the Servants abroad, except a well-inſtructed Maid or two, brought up to her own hand, that have the length of her foot exactly, and then ſhe whips into her Chamber, and locks her ſelf up. When her Husband comes home, he asks if every thing be ready, according to his order; truly

truly Sir, ſaith the Maid, my Miſtreſs is v
ry ill, and there is no body at home to
any thing; this puts our Maſter (if he m
be ſo called without offence) into a gr
Chafe, but however leads his Friends in
the Parlour, where all things are out of o
der, and therefore goes to his Wife, w
have you ſerved me ſo? ſaith he, Sir, y
do command ſo many things at once, t
I do not know which to turn my ſelf
firſt. Fy! Fy! ſaith he, you have do
me the greateſt diskindneſs imaginable; f
theſe are the only Perſons in the Worl
that I am obliged to. And how can
help it? (ſays ſhe) what would you have m
to do? You ſhew your Wiſdom in it i
deed; well do what you pleaſe; I'm ſu
it don't pleaſe me. But heark you Gentl
woman, why did you ſend the Servan
out of the way? God bleſs me, what
Queſtion is that from a wiſe Man as yo
are? Did I know, or could I divine, thin
you, that you had any occaſion for them
When the miſchievous wretch ſent the
out of the way, on purpoſe to diſappoi
and Fret him. Away he goes agen to h
Friends in a fury, but ſhe values it no
knowing the Storm will ſoon blow over
To be ſhort, he buſtles about, and ſets a
things in as good order as he can. The
h

ne ſends for ſome of the Table-Linnen, nd word is brought there's none to be ad. He goes to his Wife, and tells her hat a ſhame and diſgrace it will be, both or him and her, not to have fine Linnen, he tells him there is Linnen out already, ood enough for them; for I'm ſure my riends and Relations are content with t, when they beſtow a Viſit on us, and 'm ſure they are as good as the beſt of hem, but however to ſatisfie you, all the eſt Linnen is in the Waſh, except what s under Lock and Key in the Trunk, and he Keys were loſt this Morning; but you ad beſt go ask the Chamber-Maid, and id her ſeek them; for I know not what s become of them, I have ſo many things unning in my head, that I do not know ometimes what I do, I am in ſuch diſtra- tion and confuſion. Then the Fop bites he Lip, ſcratches his empty Nodle, and aps out a great Oath, being enraged (and auſe enough too) that he will quickly ake the Locks flie, if they do not find ne Keys, and that ſpeedily too. Say you o, good Sir, quoth ſhe, I would I could e that once, you would ſhew a great eal of diſcretion in ſuch an action, I con- ſs; but his heat being ſomewhat allay'd, e conſiders ſhe is in the right, and ſo they

fall

fall to what is before them; the best Wi
Meat and every thing, being at her disp
sal, but they are like to go without it,
all her Huffing Husband. Nay they m
not have clean Sheets, but lie in Foul L
nen. Well! in the Morning they ta
their leaves, and divert themselves up
the Road with the Poor, over-ridd
Fools affliction, resolving never more
set foot within his doors. When they
gone, he attaques his Wife (thinking
bestow a little moderate reproof upon h
saying, indeed, my Dear, you are a v
strange Woman, and I do not at all u
derstand your froward humor: L
bless me, saith she, what ado you k
about me? I am weary of my Life, wo
I were as deep in the ground as I am hig
I am up early, and down late, feedi
your Poultry, looking after your Do
stick Affairs, Spinning, Carding, and w
not, never Idle, I am sure the Care I ta
will shorten my days; and yet all t
does not deserve (the more's my gri
so much as one good word from you
scrape at home, and am as sparing as
be, and you spend all abroad, yet you
not content. Thus they live a disc
tented, wretched Life, old Age creeps u
on him, Grief seizeth him; he grows
c

Sot, and she makes a Beast of him; he is ntangled in the Net, and if he makes himself away, or comes to some ill End, he may thank himself for it, and verifies he old Proverb, *Marriage and Hanging go by Destiny*, and there is an end of him.

The seventh Comfort of Matrimony.

THE Grave *Italians* have a Proverb, that *Honest Men Marry, but wise Men don't*, and that is the Reason we have so many Fops in the World, and so few discreet Persons. Our next Married Couple that we shall represent to you, we will suppose to be well Matcht, and they enjoy themselves for some time; but the clearest Sun may be often overcast with Clouds, and then according to the *Lyric* Poet,

Desinit in Piscem Mulier formosa superne.

A Fair Morning may end in a Lowring Evening. In the heat and vigor of Youth their days may be somewhat Pleasant;

but

but the Woman decays not ſo ſoon as t
Man, let their condition be what it w
for he is often haraſſed and broken w
Carking Care, whilſt ſhe grows plu
with Delight and Pleaſure: And as for
Pain and Peril of Child-bearing, I do
more wonder at it, than at the laying
a great Egg, by a Hen, or a Gooſe, the
dinary effect of Nature, no more, notwi
ſtanding all their Tittle Tattle, the H
being always the fatter for laying, wh
the Cock ſcrapes and provides for H
as the honeſt Married Man for his W
And when the poor Man begins to
cline, grow weak and imbecile, the go
Wife continuing ſtill very Blithe a
Gameſome, then the former Deligh
Amorous Tricks, Kind Expreſſions, W
ton Looks and Glances, are turned i
downright Scolding, and endleſs Cont
tion. Well! at length ſhe begins to d
cover her good Temper, ſhe looks ſo
erly upon him with a Cloudy Coun
nance, ſlights and neglects him as
ſufficient, and is much concern'd at
Diſappointment of his Impetuous Ner
his Heat and Activity being loſt, or
leaſt abated. Then ſhe grows of Opi
on, that God and the Laws did c
tainly ordain a Woman more than

M

Man as well in *England* as in *Turkey*, nd other well Regulated Countries, and aith ſhe will run the *Riſque*, and try how ther Men are Weapon'd and Qualified or the Sport, and now the Game begins, he grows worſe and worſe to him, leads im a ſad Life, that the fooliſh Man had etter have choſen a Halter than a Wife, ecauſe the former might have prov'd the nd, whereas the latter is but the beginning f his Miſery: For now through her looſe ourſe of Life, the Candle burns at both nds, they live at Rack and Manger (as he old ſaying is) and all tends to Ruine nd Deſtruction, both of Soul and Body. Thus ſhe Conſumes with her unlawful uſt, what he has Raked together by his awful Care and Labour: Then he capitu-ates with himſelf, and ſays, 'tis ſtrange to me that my Eſtate ſhould dwindle away t this rate, I am ſure, I have ever had care of the Main Chance, and paid very one their own, lived ſparingly, loathed my ſelf meanly, and all to no urpoſe; for I can ſcarce keep the Wolf rom the door. At length he grows Jea-ous of his Wife, and imputes all his Misfortune to her Miſcarriage; but upon Examination of the whole, ſhe wheadles im ſo cunningly by her Woman-craft,

that he is satisfied those Reports of
Immodesty are false and malicious: S
claps her hands upon his Head and wis
the Devil had all that is under her Ham
if ever any Man kist her but himself: a
so the Fool is reconciled to his good Wi
Nay she proceeds farther; As for that W
lain that misinformed you, since it m
out, I'll tell you the whole truth of
Story; this Base, Perfidious Varlet h
been these two years attempting my C
stity, but I have hitherto, (I thank
God for it) kept my self Pure, Undefil
and repulsed him to his shame, if he
any in him, notwithstanding all
large Proffers and specious Pretences. C
it enter into your thoughts, sweet Hea
that I should ever defile your Bed, a
with all such vain imaginations! C
it be supposed, that I should leave
kind and comely a Man as you are,
the Embraces of another? I were wo
than the Devil himself, if I should t
such Hellish Courses; however I f
give him that has so basely bespatt
me; but I must beg this Favour of y
that you never suffer him to set f
again within these doors; for if you d
will shun him *Cane pejus & angue*, m
than a curst Cur, or a poisonous Adde

nd I'll assure you, if I find you keep the aſt Correſpondence with him for the ature, I will pack up my Awls, be gone om you, and will never live with you hile I have breath in my body: God for-id that you ſhould ever live to ſee that ay wherein I ſhould defile your Bed; no, o, my Dear, it is not come to that yet; nd then ſhe burſts out with Tears, wring-ng her hands, and bitterly exclaiming a-ainſt that Wretch with all imaginable Fe-nale Invectives. Well! all is well; he is aniſhed the Houſe, and the Good-man ails againſt him for a great Rogue, to a-uſe his good, Modeſt Wife in ſo high a ature. Thus he grows fonder and fon-er, becomes a meer Aſs, is infatuated by is Wife, and transfigur'd into a Beaſt, ithout Senſe or Reaſon. Thus ſhe has ot the Day, wears the Breeches (and thoſe Vomen are Fools that do not if they can) as freer acceſs to her Gallant, unſuſ-ected than formerly, and the Fop her usband is deaf to all Accuſations: at ngth through this Dotage he falls into xtream Penury, and finds to his Coſt, *era eſt in fundo Parſimonia*, 'Tis too late o be ſaving, when there is nothing to ave; theſe are the Pleaſures and Com-orts of a Married Life; he is made the

Scorn and Scoff of the Neighbourhoo
ſome perhaps may be ſo kind as to pi
the Honeſt Man; Wiſe Men reject hi
and ſlight his Company; his Wife ſm
at his Folly, enjoys her ſtolen Amo
undiſcovered: grows at length as co
mon as a Barber's Chair, no ſooner
is out but another's in; expoſeth
Body to every Perſon, who is ſufficien
Tool'd for her Salaciouſneſs; and
laſt (as a juſt Reward of her Debauc
ry and Laſciviouſneſs) gets the Foul
ſeaſe of ſome Fouler Raſcal, gives it
good Husband, in Retaliation of
his fondneſs, ſo that they live in p
all the days of their lives, and at laſt
their days unpitied, loathſomly a
wretchedly.

The eighth Comfort of Matrimony

OUR next Married Couple that
are to diſcourſe of are Perſons w
enough Matched, if they could be cont
with what they have: God hath bl
them with five or ſix ſweet Children L

ng, and the Wife is as big as ſhe can Tumble with another. The time of her delivery, and his charges draws nigh, and ll things muſt be made ready for the ood Wives that are about her; at length fter ſome ſharp Throws, they give her ver for dead, the poor man is almoſt t his wits end, when he firſt hears that iſmal news, runs about like a Mad an for help, falls on his knees, prays r her ſafe delivery, his Prayers are heard, nd ſhe is brought to bed of a Luſty Boy. ow there is nothing but Carouzing and nd Rejoycing throughout the Family, the ap runs apace, but the Goſſips Tongues, yld with Liquor, faſter, interlarded with nutty diſcourſe, ſuitable to the preſent ccaſion. The Spring of the Year is now oming on, and every one of any Quali- y is preparing for the Country to View atures Green Tapeſtry, and hear the arbling Nightingale Carol her ſweet otes in the pleaſant ſerenity of the quiet vening, and among the reſt, the Wife uſt go to take the Country-Air after her ing in, and 'tis but requiſite for her ealths ſake: but how to perſwade him o take this Journy, ther's the buſineſs. ow ſhe begins to ſet all Engines at work

To that purpose; first she comes home co
contented, and is very Snappish to
Husband; what's the matter? Love! sai
he, what makes you so out of humou
the matter, quoth she, I think I have n
son enough, the Child is very much
stempered with a Violent Burning Feaw
insomuch, that the Nurse protests to
(tho it was a long time 'ere I could gett
out of her) that the poor Babe hath n
taken the Breast these four days. I
heartily troubled, and know not how
help my self; but that which afflicts
most is, that upon my conscience, I beli
God Almighty punishes the Child for
sins, for I made a vow to go into
Country, and I shall never be at rest,
I have performed it. Why, sweet hear
saith he, have a little Patience, the ti
is not yet elapsed, you need not be
hasty: I have a great deal of business
dispatch, and that of Concernment t
now when that is over you shall go wh
you please. In troth, saith she, don't
me of business, I must go, and I will
there's no necessity for my stay, I'm s
I can do you no service; and as for
charges, which I know is all your gr
and fear, I will pinch them out some w

or other, tho I abate it in Houſe-keeping; This you do to perſwade the world what a good Husband you are; but if the truth were known, you will be found to ſave at the Spigot, and let it run out at the Bung hole. The poor Man being thus Schooled by his Wife, muſt provide for this Journey, or elſe all the Fat's in the Fire; there will be no quietneſs, if ſhe does not go abroad. Well the time is come, and they muſt ſet forward. Horſes are provided, and a new Riding Garb for the Wife, he himſelf waits upon her, and muſt be as Tractable as a Spaniel upon the Road; his Wife is always wanting one thing or other; the Stirrup is too ſhort, or too long, the Pillion is not well fixt, her Scarf flies off; the Horſe Trots too hard, and makes her ſick, ſo that ſhe muſt light and take a Walk, then ſhe muſt be helpt up again, and this unneceſſary trouble hath the noddy brought upon himſelf, beſides the deſtillations that ſhe is troubled with every quarter of a Mile, ſhe having the Diabetes, and cannot hold water long. Being arriv'd at the place intended; ſhe is diſcompoſed with her Journey, and her ſtomach grows ſo nice, that it Kecks at ſuch Courſe food, as

Beef and Mutton, and she must have
Fowl to pick upon. Well away goes t
contented Fool, and Trudges about
Town for some Dainty bit to please
Lady, cost it never so much; for you kn
far bought, and dear bought is fit for
Cattle; and when he comes home, if
Marketting displeaseth her, then she,
well as the rest of her Sex, falls fowl
the Good man, saying, in truth you
the strangest person that ever liv'd,
at all fit to Travel; not at all Compl
sant, you know not how to oblige
Sex. The Patient Fop hears all and be
all, being accustomed to such kind of
proof, as the Tinker's Dog is to carry
Budget. After they have solaced the
selves at this Pleasant rate, as long as
thinks convenient, home they retu
find all things out of order, the Ho
dead in the Stable, the Servants Gaddi
abroad after their own Invention, all th
Mony spent, that he cannot buy any mo
and therefore must foot it about his o
occasions; and she will not set her ha
to do the least chair in the House, till
hath had a Fortnights rest after her T
velling; only go a Visiting, Chat w
her Gossips, and complain of the uns
viceablen

viceableneſs of her Husband throughout the whole Journey. The poor Man he ſettles to work, endeavours to ſet all things to rights, takes a great deal of pains; and if any thing is in fault, he's hit in the Teeth with it; but if all things be well and in order, that muſt be imputed to her good management. In fine, ſhe is ſo taken with her Country-Journey, that ſhe is reſolved to be Travelling once a Year, what ever comes on't, and he ſhall be at the Charge of it. Thus his Expences increaſe with his Years, he is afflicted with the Wracking Gout, and (which is a worſe Diſtemper) a Froward Woman, that makes the ſmall Remainder of his days, comfortleſs; for ſhe will Rule the Roaſt, muſt have her Will in all things, will be Miſtreſs and Govern, whilſt he ſtands only for a Cipher at Home, and at length thro Grief and Diſcontent, becomes a meer Skeleton, and Languiſheth away to nothing.

The Ninth Comfort of Matrimony.

WHen a Man hath once thrown him
ſelf into the Net, or rather Pr
ſon of a Family, and taken a brisk Wif
then the Comforts of Marriage daily flow
in upon him : This Wife you muſt unde
ſtand is a Haughty, Proud Spirited We
man, and would fain Domineer over he
Husband ; but he being a Prudent Ma
manages his Affairs with ſuch Diſcretion
that ſhe, to her great Grief finds, ſhe ſha
never get the upper hand. Thus for
time he is Head of the Family, and Go
verns his Wife and Children with Credi
and Reputation ; he is happy in a nume
rous Iſſue of both Sexes ; hath Educate
them all very well, and Match'd them t
good Fortunes ; but mark what follows
When all this is done, being full of year
the Infirmities of Old-age at laſt ſeize hin
and he is Fettred to his Chamber, by ſom
Tedious and Chronical Diſtemper, ſo tha
he is not able to move or ſtir out of h
Chair. Now the Domeſtick War begi
de novo, the Wife will do nothing bu
wha

what ſhe pleaſeth, tho ſhe was formerly kept under Hatches; the Poor Man is now her Priſoner, and at her Mercy; the Wife grows Surly and Sawcy, the Children Maſterleſs, the Servants Unruly; and if the Husband attempts to Correct them, ſhe is ready to fly in his face for it. Seeing himſelf thus Abuſed by his Wife, Diſobeyed by his Children, and ſlighted by his Servants, he takes it very much to heart: But that which Afflicts him moſt is the Extravagancy of his eldeſt Son and Heir, Bolſtred up by his Mother, only to break the old Man's Heart, and make him end his Life Miſerably. If he thinks of a Will, that he ſhall not be permitted to do, for fear he ſhould bequeath ſomewhat to his Poor Relations, or be too Laviſh in Charitable Legacies: Now the old Gentleman is left in the Cold alone, unregarded, whilſt ſhe Goſſips about in the Pariſh, and declares the Curriſh Uſage of her Huſband; had I not been (ſaith ſhe) a Woman of a matchleſs Patience, I could never have lived with him half this time: but this is not all; for when ſhe comes home ſhe throws it in his diſh frequently, and tells him now upbraidingly, that God Rewards him for it. The Good Man is

resolved to Admonish her and her Chi
dren fairly, to see whether that will wo
any Good upon her, and to that en
calls them before him: My Dear! y
are the only person that I ever Love
and yet give me leave to tell you that
am not pleased with your Carriage in m
ny Particulars: You know I am Master
the House, and will be as long as I li
(but, faith, Old Gentleman you are missi
ken, quoth the good Wife softly and sm
lingly) tho I am not used like one at pr
sent: You know farther how I ha
ever Cherished you, as the Beloved W
of my Bosom, and kept you as tender
the Apple of my eye, but neither you, n
my Children have behaved your selves
you ought to do. What would you ha
done? I trow, saith she, you are too w
used, you do not know when you are we
there is nothing we can do to please yo
Would you have us stand demurely befo
you with our fingers in our mouths? N
so neither, I do not deserve this Taun
ing Language at your hands. Then
turns to his eldest Son: Son, (saith h
I have made some Observations of yo
Behaviour, with which I am very muc
Dissatisfied. You are my Eldest Son an

He

Heir 'tis true; but I see you Lavish away my Estate Profusely, with Profligate and Debauch'd Company: I have been a good Father, have Improved your Estate, and shall leave you a Plentiful Revenue, if you be Obedient and Dutiful, but otherwise, I swear by all that is good and Sacred, you shall never enjoy my Estate. What would you have him to do? saith she, one shall have enough to do to please you: Do you want for any thing? What would you be at I wonder? I never saw the *Peer* of you, I vow to God; you are neither pleased full, nor fasting. Pray Woman, hold you your Tongue, and do not uphold him against me, tho it hath been ever your way to do so. This done, the Mother and her Son lay their Heads together, and resolve to give out, that the Old man is Craz'd, grown a Child again, and make the World believe he is Senseless: if any one comes to speak with him, and asks the Good Lady for the Good Man; she presently Answers, Alas, Poor Gentleman! he is fast enough in God Almighty's Dungeon; and how came that to pass, Madam? God knows, Sir, for I do not, He is grown a Dotard, I am sure I have no comfort or help of him, God help me,

and grant me Patience to undergoe m
Afflictions. Truly, Madam, I am heartt
ly ſorry for it. Thus is the Old Gen
tleman Concealed from the World, an
Confined to his Chamber, ſo that he can
not Redreſs or help himſelf, nor undd
ceive the World of the wrong done him
This he muſt needs undergo with a gre
deal of Grief and inward Regret: bu
ſince he finds no other Remedy, he is re
ſolved to bear it Patiently. For my par
I look upon this to be as great a Tormen
as can be upon Earth, for a Man to be we
ſtricken in years, Diſeaſed and Trouble
with a Painful Diſtemper, Sequeſtred fro
all Friends and Relations, Debarred of a
Company, but ſuch as rather add to, tha
diminiſh his Sorrow. Thus he Linge
away in Grief, Pines with Pain, Langu
ſheth with Sorrow, lives Wretchedl
but I hope dies Happily; tho my Pray
ers ſhall be, that Fortune would bring h
to ſome ſhameful End, that occaſion
it, and ſo Farewel, thou worſt of W
men!

T

The tenth Comfort of Matrimony.

HE that is once decoy'd into the Net of Matrimony, muſt bear with his Misfortune as well as he can; for 'tis a hard thing for him to get out of the Nooz, when he is once faſtned, as will appear by this enſuing Diſcourſe. Our Married Man here, that is to taſte of the Tenth Comfort of Marriage (much good do his heart with it) is but a Puny, Diminutive, Conſumptive Animal, neither gifted with Weapons nor Activity to pleaſe a Wife; and ſhe, after an Eſſay made of his Ability, complains to her Mother, that ſhe cannot love him, he is ſo Lean and Meager, that it is as good lying with a parcel of Carpenter's Tools, as with him, his skin is ſo lanck, and his bones ſo ſharp and extended, that when he toucheth her in Bed, he pricks her like ſo many Needles, tho not in the proper place, a Life that no poor Woman can bear; ſhe wants due Benevolence, and requires more Milk than he can give her, and therefore is reſolved to Lap elſewhere. Now the Solace of Matrimo-

ny

ny begins to appear, *Tantalus*-like, she up to the Chin in Water, and can neith drink, nor eat those Apples that lie bob bing at her Mouth; a sad condition for Hungry and Thirsty Soul: Abroad she roams, picks up the first Stallion th comes to Hand, and enjoys him as ofte as she has opportunity. *Stolen Waters a sweet*, they say; and it appears so by th Gentlewoman; but the Mischief on't i that by ill Conduct of Affairs, her Hu band discovers her Amorous Intrigu spoils her Gaming, and corrects her se verely for her Impudence; insomuch that she deserts him, and goes to he Friends, Complaining with feigned tear of his Harsh Usage to her, and shews th Marks of his severity to her Relation who pitty her, and curse him. This an excellent Comfort of Matrimony. Thu Pleasure salutes him in the very Infanc of his Wedded Condition, and will un doubtedly continue to the end. Howeve the fond Fop, being deprived of his Wife bemoans her absence every night in hi Widdow'd Sheets, and is at a great los for a Bed-fellow: He cannot endure thi Life long, and therefore the poor Cornut must send for her again; finding him i

thi

this Loving Pickle, Poor thing! the Bowels of her Affection warmble not after a Husband (having been all this while ſtewed in the warm Embraces of her Gallant) and procures her Mother to give out, that ſhe hath been all this while under her Tutelage; then having an Oppottunity to meet with her Husband, Rattles him ſoundly for his Baſeneſs toward her Daughter, telling him, that her Poor Child was forced to run away from him, becauſe ſhe went in danger of her Life all the time ſhe co-habited with him: I had rather, ſaith ſhe, by half, that you would turn her Home to me, and part good friends, than to abuſe her ſo as you do; and withal take notice that your Behaviour to the Poor Girl is enough to make her do what ſhe never thought of, and make your Head ake in ſpite of your Teeth, take that from me, Sir, ſince you are as you are. Being thus Lectured by the Mother, he ſeems to be very ſorrowful, and hath a Moneths mind to the Daughter; nothing will ſerve him, but he muſt have her again, and has her *de bene eſſe*, upon promiſe of Reformation. Overjoy'd with the repurchaſe of his Wife, he grows kind even to Wonder, hops about with her

from

from place to place, till his Money is
hop'd from him, and then returns hom
with an empty Pocket, but a heavy Hea
God knows. Or elſe, if this Wheedle do
not take, a Divorce is endeavour'd
both ſides to be procured, but for wa
of ſufficient Cauſe of Separation, or
reaſon of a conſiderable Flaw in the E
dence, the Judge condemns them to l
according to their Marriage Vow, and i
poſes a ſmart Fine upon them for th
Folly; ſo that the Caſe is worſe a
worſe, they are both doom'd to a Loat
ed Bed, and a Life which an *Ideot* ha
ſenſe enough to avoid, rather than be
tormented, and expoſe themſelves Luc
briouſly to the Cenſure of the wh
World. Now if it falls out, that th
is ſufficient Cauſe for a Divorce, their m
ſery is not at all abated; for they m
never Marry while they live; and if th
are not ſo Continent, as to forbear V
nereal Divertiſements, they muſt e
run the riſque of a Swinging Clap, a
the loſs of Reputation; ſo that by t
means they are caught, and faſter in t
Net than ever; and if they are of a Nob
Family, Rich in Lands and Poſſeſſion
then their Names are loſt for want of

He

Heir, and they go out of the World with
n ill ſtench, their Reputation being rot-
en before their Duſt, and their memory
s more nauſeous than their Bones in the
Grave. He is ſorely troubled at the Bad
Report of his Wife, and can go into no
Company, but her miſdeeds are diſplay'd
efore him, to his Grief, and her own
hame, an Invenom'd Tongue making
deep and incurable Wound; thus he
ees himſelf the May-Game and Sport of
very Flouting Fellow, and ſilently bears
ll that's thrown at him: every one has
fling at his Jacket, and the Gallants
nany at his Wife's Placket, who keep her
nder his very Noſe, to the grief of his
eart, he pacing about the Town *Actæon-*
iz'd, and admir'd by the Boys and Rab-
le, a Torment ſufficient, I confeſs, to diſ-
ompoſe a wiſer Head; but no matter, it
s no more than he deſerves, and all ſuch
ontented Cuckolds: Let him live as long,
nd as well as he can, I'll not envy his
appineſs, and when ever he Dyes, I hope
ſhall die in a better, tho not ſo contented
Condition.

The

The eleventh Comfort of Matrimon

WHen a brave young Gentleman at his own freedom, and has t World in a ſtring, he may ſteer his ov Courſe without care or controle. T our Gallant here, we intend to mentio has a good Eſtate, keeps high Compan Careſſes Handſome Ladies, gives himſ over to all manner of Pleaſure, is his F ther's only Son and Joy. At length t Spark meets with a Young, Comely, Bri Sanguine Complexioned Lady, who c never long withſtand a Suit well manag with Judgment, and well-tim'd with d cretion, (tho every Women of what Co plexion ſoever will permit a Man to ſcr himſelf into her Conſtitution, if likes him) he hath made many and te ous Addreſſes to her, laid cloſe Siege her Chaſtity, ſo that the poor thing able to hold out no longer, but n yield up the Fort, grants his requ and expoſeth her ſelf to his looſe E braces.

I

But the worſt is to come, this is not all; he little viripotent Youngling of fifteen s Prolific, and proves with Child, for which there can be no other Remedy then Concealment, and as good luck would ave it, the Mother had been in the Oven efore, and underſtood well enough how o make the beſt of a bad Market, for the oor Girl knows not ſhe is with Child, ho the Mother does, and ſhe has not long o reckon; ſhe pukes every Morning, ma- ing ſtrange Grimaces, and complains hat her ſtomack is untoward, and out of rder: Well! without all Queſtion, ſaith he Mother, you are with-Child; now ind what I am going to ſay to you; as or your Gallant I have forbidden him my louſe for ever, he being too mean a match or you; be ſure Huſſy you never open our lips of this unlucky Job (which came y Jobbing) to any Chriſtian Soul, and bſerve punctually what I ſhall ſay to ou. Did you never take notice of the oung Eſq; that comes here ſometimes? es, Madam, ſaith ſhe; well take ſpecial otice of him next time, and he has pro- iſed to be here to Morrow: Behave our ſelf diſcreetly, and ſhow him a Plea- nt Countenance: and when you ſpy me

a talking with the reſt of the Compa
dart a favorable, faſcinating Glance up
him, caſt a ſheeps eye at him, do you
derſtand me Girl ? yes, Madam ; obſe
my directions : if he will keep you in
courſe, anſwer him Modeſtly, if he p
fers you Marriage, return him thanks
nocently, but withal give him to unc
ſtand, that you know not what it is,
do you deſire to learn : If he offers yo
preſent either of Gold or Silver, be
you refuſe it harmleſly ; but if it be w
a Jewel, Diamond, or Ring ; do as M
uſe to do, deny it modeſtly at firſt,
nay, and then take it. When he t
his leave of you, ask him mildly, when
ſhall ſee him again ? This Noble blad
but an Inch of this ſide of a Natural, H
vaſt Eſtate, but a meer Town-Fop, wh
the Mother will, if poſſible, work u
to Marry her Daughter, ſo that he i
great danger of being caught in the n
and finely Bubled. Well ! he repeats
Viſits, as cloſe as he can one upon
neck of the other : is very well recei
ſplendidly Treated, and after dinner w
draws with the young Lady, and C
plements her apart from the Comp
takes her by the hand, and thus (lil

ol as he is) accosts her. Madam, I wish
ith all my Soul, that you knew but the
noughts of my heart. Alas! Sir that's
mpossible, unless you discover them; I
pe you think of no harm. Upon my
aith, not I Madam, nor of any thing but
hat I would willingly have you know,
nd that without my telling it. Truly
r saith she, and Ushers her discourse
ith a charming Smile: I cannot Divine,
d therefore 'tis impossible for me to un-
rstand you. If I thought Madam, you
ould not be displeased, I would faith-
lly discover them. Sir replies the Young
ady, you have your freedom to say what
u please; for I have so good an opinion
you, that I presume you can say no-
ing but what is Commendable and Ci-
l. Madam, saith he, I am a Person,
must confess, unworthy to Kiss your
nds, and dare not presume to Marry you
ng a Lady adorn'd with all Natures
rfection: but if you please to do me that
nour, (expect no Ceremony from me,
adam) I dare boast from my Heart, that I
uld love you with all my Soul, and that
man can Love you better, nor serve you
ith that submission and Affection that I
n and will, for I resolve never to forsake

you,

you.let what will befall me,and I ſhall be
tender of your Reputation, as my own.
return you thanks Sir, ſaith ſhe, but I
ſeech you,ceaſe your Diſcourſe do not h
upon that ſtring any longer ; for I kn
not what it means, nor will I learn, th
flat and Categorical ; This Diſcou
would offend my Mother,if it ſhould re
her ear. Faith, Madam, your Mothe
a very good Woman ; but, if you ple
your Mother ſhall know nothing of
I will be wholly directed by your Co
minds. Why do you ſay ſo Sir, I am co
dent it would not be for your Good, n
ther would your Friends adviſe you to
ſuch thing : Pray Sir forbear this kin
Talk ; for if my Mother ſhould hear it
am utterly undone ; here the Mother g
her a Nod, ſeeing them both very ear
in Diſcourſe, for fear ſhe ſhould Miſca
and not Act her part well : Then the N
led Youth claps a Ring in her hand,
begs of her to accept it for his ſake;inc
Sir I ſhall not ; I beſeech you Mad
wear it for my ſake ; well Sir, ſaith
at laſt, ſince it muſt be ſo, it ſhall be
and I will wear it upon your acco
Then the Mother comes to him,
tells him, to Morrow Sir we deſign

ile a little way out of Town, to take he Fresh Air; at which he rejoyceth; when the time of Departure is come, the usiness is so ordered, that there is never Horse in the Company carries double, ut the young Gentleman's, at which e is not a little pleased; so it falls out appily, that his Mistress is set behind im, who hugs the Pummel of her Sadle or her own Security, I leave you to judge whether he likes his Company or no: he Gentleman is very near the Net; for his Journey was only undertaken to catch he Young Widgeon; he keeps close to is Mistress, and when the Mother finds n opportunity, she enquires of her Daughr how squares go, and she tells her all: rom henceforward, saith she, Daughter, whatever you do, carry your self discreetly, if he talks of Marrying you, tell him, ou must acquaint me with it, but withal, hat he is the only Man in the World you ove, and that you will never have any ut him. Then they take a Walk in the arden, then he takes her by the hand, nd says, Fine Lady! take pity of me, I eseech you: Pray Sir, talk no more on't, r if you do, I will forsake your Comany: Spare me one word more without

offence,

offence, if you would be pleased to Cre
me with this Happiness, I should talk
for the greatest Honour that was
confer'd upon Mortal. Sir, saith she
must be proposed to my Relations, or
I can say nothing to't: If I thought
would approve of it, I would propo
my self; for God's sake, saith the
ning Gipsie, have a care, that you do
say a word of my proposing any
thing, for I should die through sham
any such thing should be said of me;
I, upon my Faith, Madam, and the
way he goes to the Mother, and disc
ses the business so respectively, that
cocluded, and they make up the M
immediately; the sooner, the better
things considered, for *Hans in Kel*
sake: Now the Poor Gentleman i
the Net, and no body as yet knows o
but at last it comes to the Ears of his
rents, who are grieved at the very h
knowing it to be too inferiour a M
for their Son: thus they are Wedde
haste, and may repent at leisure; he
Married without Licence, unaskt
Church, without any Ceremony;
way in the World, so that the busine
once over. Well night draws on, the Mo
t

kes her Daughter to task, and inſtils me of her good, Motherly Inſtructions to her, relating to her Carriage with her usband that Night: ſhe charges her to ut him to it as a Virgin ought to do; nd farther, that as ſoon as he entred the remiſes, with ſome feigned Reluctancy n her part, ſhe muſt fall into a fainting rick, as if ſhe had fallen into a cold wa- r in a hot fit. Thus ſhe Tutors her aughter to deceive the Young Fop. All ings hitherto are very well, but mark hat follows, there is a curſed ſting in e Tail; for within two or three Moneths, e Young Bride groans, and falls all pieces; it could be no longer hid, Young Babe peeps into the World, and at ſpoils all. Now all the Joy is con- rted into Sorrow, and he knows not hat to do with himſelf. He is quite at loſs: If he turns her away, the whole orld will be acquainted with it, and he nnot Marry again, and for her part ſhe ill take care of one. 'Tis an ill Hen at can't ſcrape for one Chicken. If he eps her and co-habits with her, ſhe will ver care a Pin for him, nor he for her, ere will be no Love loſt of either ſide, l be bold to ſay. Well! *All is well,*

that

that ends well, saith the good old Ad
and so say I too; but from such C
fort in the Close, from such an End as t
Good Lord deliver me!

The twelfth Comfort of Matrim

AND a sweet one 'tis too, if
knew all. Our Youngster in
Case is one hath beat about the Ne
long, that at last he hath found a hol
creep in at; and to be sure hath ver
the Adage, *fast bind, fast find*, he ha
ed an Indissolluble Knot, but here is
Comfort still, that he hath Married
a *Non pareille*, such a matchless Wo
for Morality, Goodness and Vertue,
she is not to be Parallel'd in the U
verse: He admires her Discourse, ex
her Education, commends her Dep
ment, dotes upon her Face, is so C
vated with the Distinction of her
that he is Ravish'd with his Choice,

boasts of his Prudent Election; he is resolved to let loose the Reins of Government, and permit her to bear the Sway; nothing shall be done, but what has first the Stamp of her Approbation: She is his All, and He her Nothing, nay, you will find at last, that she values him little or nothing: He is as Tame as a Man, educ'd by Phlebotomy to a weakly condition, and made up of nothing but Obedience. There's my Man (if he hath not forfeited his Manhood) as good a Husband as ever laid Leg over Woman. If His King and Country raise an Army to oppose a Foreign Invasion, he shall not stir Foot, unless she be in the Humour to permit him, he shall not go to the Wars; for his Wife is too tender of him to let him be so long out of her sight; Hang Game he shall not March, lest he returns with Grinning or Cripled Honour. Come, come, Sweet Heart! saith she, 'tis good keeping in a whole Skin; you never was fit out for Martial Enterprizes; your Boy is too young and tender to be exposed to the Hazard and Hardship of Ruffling in War: Let others purchase Renown, that buy it, at never so dear a Rate, you shall enjoy your self at Home in Peace and Qui-

etneſs. Thus is the fond Fop abſolute
Governed by his Wife, ſhe has him f
and will not looſe an Inch of her ho
If ſhe has a mind to Junket and Spe
with her Gallant, he muſt to Bed, a
then the Gooſe is laid to the Fire. Som
times ſhe puts him in mind of urgent B
ſineſs, and then he muſt riſe at Midnig
to diſpatch it; or elſe ſhe expoſes him
a Journey, that ſhe may have the bet
Opportunity to enjoy her Friend; or
muſt riſe all Hours in the Night to fe
her a Doctor to cure the Stich or Pain
the ſide, and expoſe himſelf to the inj
of the Weather, when in the interim
admits her Gallant, who is ſo bold as
Scale the Walls, creep in at the Windo
and a thouſand ſuch little Love-Toys,
accompliſh his Deſign and Deſire. So
times it falls out that her Friend h
Planted himſelf behind the Hangings,
her miſchievous little Lap-dog ſmells
out, and ſhe tells her Husband, they
Rats and Mice that he barks at, and
ſwades him 'tis the poor Cur's Cuſtom
do ſo; but at laſt ſhe frightens him a
with, Out you little Foiſting Cur, wh
Noiſe is here with you? and then he ſn
away like a Dog that has burnt his T

She makes him dandle the Child to ſleep, and ſing a Nocturnal Lullaby to the Innocent Babe, while he like an innocent Fool does it without Murmuring: She makes him carry the Diſtaff or Spindle, whilſt ſhe is cutting out more work for him: ſhe ſpins a fair Thread at laſt, and he to his coſt finds that, *he hath brought his Hogs to a fair Market.* In ſhort, like a Spaniel he is made to fetch and carry, when, and what ſhe pleaſes; the poor Fop never enjoys a minutes reſt or content, runs thro a World of Sorrow and Tribulation, and ſo let him, unpitied for me; for he ſeems to be created to no other End. He has brought in old Houſe over his Head, which is preſently until'd, if he ſpeaks but one word to contradict her: ſhe has got the upper Hand of him, and 'tis now too late to reclaim her: had he taken her down in her Wedding-ſhoes, there might have been Hopes of doing ſome good with her; but it is in vain, nay impoſſible to work upon her now.

Thus he grows Aged through Care, Grief and Vexation, is ſlighted by his Dame, like an old Faulkner, or to ſpeak more properly, like an Old Wife (the worſt of Creatures,) good for nothing.

His (or rather her) Domeſtick Affairs,, muſt not intermeddle with: ſhe is t *Domina fac totum*; and if any of h Daughters be Marriageable, ſhe diſpoſ of them to whom ſhe pleaſeth, witho his Conſent or Approbation: If th are well Matcht, well and good: if he dares not find fault with it, much l upbraid her for it. She plays the W man exactly, and will have her Will every thing, right or wrong, there is gainſaying, unleſs he has a mind to ma the Houſe too hot to hold him. Now Appeal to all Rational Men, what grea Torment can there be to a Man t ſuch a Ruling Houſwife? what gre Plague to a Husband than ſuch a Do neering Wife? O the unutterable co fort of ſuch an eaſie, pleaſant Life, wh the good Woman takes all the Burt upon her own ſhoulders, Manages Affairs at home and abroad, and he ſo much as concerned with any, l happily and free from the Cares and T moiles of a Wedded Life, Dies with G and Shame, to ſee himſelf ſo Conqu by his Wife, and ſo ſneaks out of World, quite weary of it, without or compaſſion: There let him reſt qu

ly in his Grave, that never did so in his Life-time, without Epitaph or Monument, but that everlasting one of his Folly, that he left behind him to Posterity.

The thirteenth Comfort of Matrimony.

THis Gentleman we are to treat of here, is of a quite different Temper from the last, who will not be Rul'd by his Wife, but is of a Noble, Martial Spirit, and runs in pursuit of Honour and Fame. He is resolved to venture his Life and Fortune in his Princes Service beyond-Sea, and in order thereunto first acquaints his Wife with his unshaken Resolution; she Embraces and Caresses him with Tears in her Eyes: Alas! my dear, saith she, can you have the heart to forsake me and the Pledges of our Love, these sweet Babes? will you now desert me, and leave me and my Children to the

wide World, Comfortleſs and *Husband*-
leſs, when we have lived ſo contentedly
as Man and Wife, for ſome yearts toge-
ther? My Dear! ſaith he, I muſt go, my
Honour lies at ſtake, which is dearer than
Life and all in the World beſides. I muſt
obey my King, or forfeit my Loyalty, and
the Eſtate that I hold of *His* Majeſty by
Tenure to ſerve him in his Wars; but in
Grace of God I hope to ſee you ſuddenly
if he pleaſe to continue my Life and
Health, and he is beſt able to provide for
you. Thus he takes leave of his Wife
with a heavy heart, and ſhe is as big with
ſeeming ſorrow at their parting; recom-
mending her, and his Children to the
Care and Tuition of his Friends. Aſſoon
as he arrives at the Camp, he being a
active, brave Soul, cannot reſt without
ſome attempt to ſignalize his Valour, and
attaques the Enemy with ſo brisk an aſ-
ſault, that he clears all before him, ſo the
Diſpute continues hot on both ſides a con-
ſiderable time; but at laſt, ſtimulated by
Honour and Glory, preſſes too far into
the Body of the Enemy, and the Poor
Gentleman has the misfortune to be taken
Priſoner, and there is kept three or four
Years, before he can procure an Exchange

c

or Ranſom to obtain his Liberty. *His* Lady is very Inquiſitive after his Welfare, and at laſt receives ſome ſlight and uncertain Information of his *Death*, which ſhe ſeems to take very Grievouſly, and falls into an exceſs of Sorrow; but certainly Women were not Created only to weep; beſides inordinate Grief is prohibited and ſinful. God be thanked, in a very ſhort time this grief is over, and ſhe is Married to another. The entire Affection ſhe had for her former *Husband* and his Iſſue is quite forgot and loſt; all her fond Careſſes and Embraces before, and at his departure, are buried with him (as ſhe thinks) in Oblivion, without hopes of a Reſurrection; ſhe ſhews more love to the ſecond than ſhe did to her firſt *Husband*; but that fickle Baggage Fortune will have it ſo, that her *Husband* at length is Releaſed, returns *Home*, tho much decayed and broken by the ſeverity of his Impriſonment, and the hard uſage he received from the Enemy. No ſooner arrived, but he makes diligent Inquiſition after his Wife and Children, and the thoughts of their miſcarriage, did certainly much aggravate the affliction and grief of his Captivity. At laſt he underſtands the diſmal

and unwelcome news of her Second Ma
riage: now judge you what a Confusio
he is in at this stabbing Relation. Th
anguish of *Priam*, King of *Troy*, when h
was acquainted with the Death of *Hect*
was not certainly comparable to his;
last he comes *Home*, and is fully inform
ed of all the particulars. What a Distr
ction he now is in may possibly be faint
imagined, but never fully expresst; wh
Course to steer, or how to grapple wit
this Misfortune, is a Controversie tha
cannot well be decided. What Revenge
can he study suitable to her Crime? wha
punishment doth she not deserve to hav
inflicted upon her for Faithlesness? A
he is a Man of Courage and *Honour* h
can never be so Puny-spirited as to pu
up this Injury unsatisfied, nor can he buck
le to so tame and unmanly a Condescen
tion, as to re-admit her into his Bed, th
her *Husband* should dispence with it. O
the other side, he who Married her la
must needs be very much disturbed at th
unlucky Business; and having been sati
ated with her, must hate and forsake he
for Love and Empire never admit of Co
rivals. And what a sad Case now is sh
in by her over-forwardness and Credul
ty

y? ſhe has loſt her Reputation; both her Husbands and her own *Honour*, hath buried all her Modeſty in the Grave of Infamy, and expoſed her ſelf to the Virulent Tongues of carping *Momi*; her Children will be afflicted and diſturbed at the Misfortune of the Mother, the vexation of the Father, and conſequently at the Infelicity of both their Parents.

Thus they two, who might have lived comfortably all their days, by this unlucky accident, are like to live miſerably, to whom length of days, the greateſt Happineſs on earth will prove their greateſt Miſery. Marry they muſt not, cannot, dare not: This is one of the deſireable Comforts of Matrimony: One of the *Enjoyments* of Wedded Life: One of the Pleaſures of Coupled Condition. They muſt live under without hopes of a re-union, he muſt die a Wedded Widdower, and ſhe a ſingle Wife, an unhappy Myſtery to both, and an unfortunate, tho unheard of Paradox.

The fourteenth Comfort of Matrimon

HE that is ſenſible of this Comfo
is one, who hath taken ſuch pai
to find a paſſage into the Net, that he
got in and enſnared by a young, beau
ful and well tempered Woman; and th
enjoy their Delights and Pleaſures witho
Contention or Diſturbance; a happy l
indeed, and ſuch as might make a M
thirſt after the Cup of Matrimony. Th
Careſs one another inceſſantly, like tu
Turtles, for they are two in one unite
and if the one is in the leaſt Diſcompos
the other Sympathiſeth in the Pain a
Affliction; but theſe are Halcyon Da
too ſerene and calm to laſt long; for t
Wife dies ſuddenly, and puts a Period
all their Amours and Happy Enjoymen
The Young Man grows very diſcon
late, bewails Night and Day the Irrepa
ble Loſs of his Wife; ſometimes co
plaining of Death, and other times of
Capriciouſneſs of Verſatile Fortune, N
ture's VVhirlegig, that is always turni

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and never fixed or setled. Thus for some time he lives in Misery, shuns all Society, abandons all Comfort, ruminating upon his Misfortune, the Deprivation of so good and kind a Comfort: He dreams of her continually, thinks of her without Intermission, and loves her Memory. But it is as true, as old a saying, *Nullum violentum est perpetuum: Sorrows are short, that are sharp and violent.* But after all this our young Gentleman, tho he hath been once catcht in the Net, and freed, must be so Foppish as to venture a second time, and is baited into it again, to his great Grief and Discontent: by a Widdow who is a Person of a quite contrary Humour to his former Wife, of a middle Age: First she carries her self very demurely with tolerable Discretion; but at length, when she hath sufficiently pried into his Temper, and throughly understands his Constitution, then she begins to shew her Teeth, and play upon his sweet Disposition (a Fault too incident to that Sex) brings him to her bow, and manages him to her best advantage, she studying nothing but her own, not his Satisfaction: And certainly there are no such Vassals in the world of Servitude, who are so enslaved as sim-

ple

ple Young Men, when link'd to Widdow
Women, especially when they are of
Crofs and Sordid Humour; and he that
so unfortunate as to be reduced to th
Extremity, has no other Redress, but t
pray to God to grant him Patience to un
dergo this weighty Affliction; if tha
won't do, his utmost Refuge is to hav
recourse to a Silken Halter, and so strang
himself together with his Misery. Nov
she begins to appear in her Colours; sh
grows Jealous of him (the very Bane o
a Married Life) and is so insatiable, tha
she is dissatisfied, if he be but a minut
out of her Embraces, cannot endure hi
out of her sight, and every Woman h
casts an Eye upon, he lusts after. Whe
Widdows meet with young Flesh, the
cherish it, because it renews their Strengt
and Vigour; and there is nothing mo
Noisome, or prejudicial to a Young man
Health, than a Lascivious, Draining, Ol
Wife: Yet I look upon an Old Man t
be the greater Bruit of the two, who Smug
and Trims himself up with all Artificia
Ornaments to make him appear Youth
ful, and then Marries a Young Girl: Tha
is a most intolerable piece of Vanity,
Foppery neither to be allowed, nor im
tated

tated: His Nauſeous Breath, proceeding from the corruption of Decayed Lungs, muſt needs offend beyond Expreſſion; Coughing, Sneezing, Spawling, Groaning and Spitting (tho not a word of ſpitting in the right Baſon) muſt needs be very unacceptable to Youth, if not Odious and Loathſome: But to return to our Young Gentleman, taken in the Net a ſecond time (the greater his Folly) his Wife grows ſo greedy after Man's Fleſh, that ſhe could find in her heart to turn She-Canibal, and devour it: ſhe is ſtark mad with Jealouſie, and if he goes to Church with never ſuch Real, Pious and Devout Intentions, ſhe ſuſpects he has ſome Siniſter and Wicked Deſigns. I am apt to believe, there can be no Real Love without ſome ſmack or ſpice of Jealouſie: for certainly no Man or Woman would match themſelves to a Creature, who had no good Quality, or Parts to create an Inclination in a ſecond Perſon toward them, that would betray the Fooliſhneſs of their Choice; but this ſort of Jealouſie, or rather Suſpicion, occaſions no Domeſtick Feuds, or Houſhold Jarrs, becauſe it is only an Exceſs of Kindneſs or Affection; but that which creates a groundleſs Suſpicion

picion and Diffidence of the Party belov
ed, and ends in Brawling and Contentt
on, must needs be the worst of Plague
and the Cursed Sting and Torment o
Matrimony. If these be the Comfort
of a Married Life, let me enjoy my Libe
ty and Freedom in a single State, and liv
happily without Dissatisfaction or Distu
bance. I do not in the least blame the Sta
of Matrimony, mistake me not; but th
Rash and Precipitate Election of those Ho
spurs, that run headlong into that Cond
tion without deliberate Consideration. *Hi*
pocrates, the Famous *Greek* Physician, hat
a smart saying, and very pertinently Ap
licable to our young Gentlemen, *Vetulam non novi, cur morior?* I never Wedde
an old Wife, and why should I die? It
had been well for him, if he had laid th
Sentence to heart, and matcht himself t
one of his own youthful Temper, then h
might have liv'd happily and contentedl
tho here we must take our leave of him
gasping for his last Breath in a wretche
and deplorable Condition.

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The fifteenth Comfort of Matrimony.

THis is a great and Prodigious Comfort, a Comfort that cannot be expreſt ſignificantly. Our Married Man here chanceth to meet with a VVoman who is much addicted to the ſhaking of her Elbow, as well as of her Tail, two good Qualities in a good VVife, and the good Man is like to thrive upon't. This courſe of Life ſhe leads for a conſiderable time undiſturbed, becauſe undiſcover'd, but at length he finds his Eſtate decay by her expenſive Gaming; ſuſpects her Fidelity, and is reſolved to watch an opportunity, to diſcover, if poſſible, her Amorous Intrigues: And one Day, as Fate would have it, he enters her Chamber privately, and ſurprizeth her in the very action, or in a very ſuſpicious and wanton poſture. The Husband incenſed with Rage and Fury, cannot contain himſelf any longer within bounds, but flies at her Gallant with a deſign to make him breath out his laſt upon the Spot, but as he is ſtriking at him, his

his VVife, kind Soul! (as it behoves her for she ought not to stand by, and be guilty of Murder,) comes and embraces her Husband; Ah! for Gods sake my Dear, have a care that you do not hit an unlucky Blow, and be Guilty of Bloud-shed: whereupon the Blade clears himself of his intended Assassine, and shews him a fair pair of Heels; 'twas well he was nimble-footed, or else he had certainly been sacrificed to his fury; but Fear and Guilt have VVings as well as Love, and in short he makes his escape. The Husband pursues him, but to no purpose; for he hath secured himself by Flight: whereupon he returns like a Hungry, Rampant Lion into the Chamber, thinking to meet with his VVife, and make her his Prey; but alas the Bird is flown. Now what think you is become of this Unfortunate and Disconsolate VVoman? why she is fled to her Relations, and acquaints them with all these Passages in a Mournful Dialect, with some seeming Regret. At this Relation all the whole Family is in an uproar, sometimes blaming him for his Severity, but her, most of all, for her Impudence and Indiscretion. The VVife palliates the business to her Mother, at the first,

firſt, but upon ſtrict Examination Confeſſeth with Sighs and Tears the whole matter(the Mother underſtanding very well how to manage a Cauſe of this Nature,who had her ſelf been guilty of the ſame miſcarriage, tho with more Privacy and Secrecy, without Injury to her Reputation by ſo Palpable and Notorious a Diſcovery) VVell! they meet and conſult how to ſmother the buſineſs, and by Menaces on the one hand, and Intreaties on the other hand, to reduce the eaſie natur'd Husband to a better Temper, and by all means poſſible, to patch up a Reconciliation, and make Peace between them. In order thereunto, firſt they Tamper with his Chamber-Maid, a *Procureur d' Amour*, Procuring Bawd, or Female Pander to her Miſtreſſes Luſt, and they ask her how is with her Maſter, ſince this unlucky diſaſter? To whom ſhe replies, he is in very deſperate, diſcontented Condition, hath taken no ſuſtenance at all ſince that misfortune happ'ned, nor had any Reſt or Sleep to Refreſh him. VVhen he ſate down to Dinner, this Day, he did not allow ſo much as one Morſel, his Stomach was too weak to entertain food; then he ſits as Melancholy as one that is

Hy-

Hypocondriacal; has a gaſtly, wan loc
as if Grief had drunk up all the colour
his face. Sometimes he wrings his Hand
ſhakes his Head, bites his Fingers en
takes the Knife, and ſticks it in the Tab
and afterward throws it away with gr
Indignation. Then preſently, on a ſu
den, ſtarts up and takes a Promenade
the Garden, but returns with a diſtract
look, before he hath paſſed thirty Yard
he can neither ſit nor ſtand ſtill one m
nute in a place; Night and Day he ſigh
bemoans himſelf, that it would extort p
from a *Barbarian*, to ſee him in this
Condition. Well! at length, after ſo
time elapſed, when they judged the ſto
was ſomewhat over, and that he w
grown more cool and temperate, So
of the moſt forward and craſty of that F
male Gang of her Friends and Relatic
attaque the Husband, like the North
Wind, bluſteringly, and the Tempeſt
ing over, ſtrike Sail, and diſcourſe w
as great Moderation and Subtlety, co
mending his Wife for her Vertue, Mo
ſty and Piety (a pious Devil indeed) a
that they have known her for ſeve
Years to live like a Modeſt VVife, w
an unſtained Reputation, obedient to y

f

ſelf, reſpective to her Neighbours, and civil to all Perſons of both Sexes. Now for you openly to defame her, to the ruine of her Honour, upon ſome imaginary ſurmize, is unkind, and injurious in ſo high a nature, that you can never make her amends: beſides, Sir, let me be plain with you in a buſineſs of ſo great Concernment, ſay, or think what you will, to my own certain knowledge, two perſons may be cloſely engaged in Diſcourſe together, in a very friendly poſture, and yet not do the thing that you imagine, nor ever ſo much as entertain a thought of ſo Diſloyal and Immodeſt an Action, as to defile their Husbands Bed. What he might, like a bold Ruffian attempt, I will not here diſpute, that is none of my pretence, but Foreign to the matter in hand; yet this I'll confidently aver and maintain againſt all oppoſition, that there is no Man breathing, that your Lady hates like this Villain, who hath ſo raſhly brought an old Houſe over her Head; nay I am ſatisfied in my Conſcience, that ſhe would ſooner ſee him ſuffer the moſt Ignominious Death that ever was executed upon the moſt Notorious Criminal, than permit him to touch her in an uncivil way.

Let

Let me perſwade you to conſult your rea
ſon, and not thus ruffle and diſcompo
your ſelf with a meer *Chimæra* or Fancy;
the poor Woman is ſo twell'd with Tea
that ſhe hath ſcarce an Eye to peep out c
wrings her hands, bewails her conditio
and laments without intermiſſion, the di
pleaſure you have conceived againſt her
it lies in your power yet to make up th
buſineſs, with a Salvo to her, and yo
own Reputation; for long ſhe canno
continue in this languiſhing condition, an
I hope you do not thirſt after her blou
that were Inhuman and Un-Chriſtia
Come, come, Sir, let me tell you, you mu
forget and forgive, if there were (tho
ſee no) cauſe for either, upon your Wif
account: Beſides, do you think, if yo
Wife were a Diſſolute Woman, a Wom
of tainted Reputation, that we would u
dervalue our ſelves ſo much, as to ke
her Company? No, no, never cheri
any ſuch thought in you, for that we
to ſtab our Fame and Honour, as well
hers: Nay Sir, I muſt tell you farther,
have been acquainted with her from H
Child-hood, and am ſo far from kno
ing harm by her, that I dare mainta
ſhe has been the Pattern of Vertue in th

Cou

Country. VVhat, saith the Husband, will you perswade me out of my Senses? I saw it with my own eyes. In good Faith, 'tis no such thing, say what you will; the Senses are fallible, for want of a proper Medium, or through some weakness or imperfection in the Optics. O Brave Dame! well Philosophis'd, I protest: we use to say, *Seeing is believing*; but in this case, it seems, a Man must not believe his own eyes. VVell! the Husband begins to be of a more Sedate and Serene Temper, and considers with himself, that Jealousie casts a Mist before the sight, and makes a Man see double, or very imperfectly: So now he is resolved tamely to put up all wrongs, wipe his mouth, and be silent for the future; the VVomen smile to see the Business so well managed, promise to bring them together again, and take their leave of him for the present. Thus the facil Gentleman is convinced of his Errour, and very much troubled, that ever he entertained such a Thought, and so he receives his VVife again, and all things are buried in their mutual Embraces. Now what think you will be the Issue of all this? he upon this grows Insolent, and hits him in the Teeth with his Recognition

and

and Acknowledgement, upbraiding h
with the Injury he hath done her: The G
lant and Neighbours must be Treated wi
a costly Collation to put up the busine
and now they may enjoy themselves wi
out Controul, her Friend Caresses her, a
she him, one good turn, you know, defer
another, and Ingratitude is the Blackest
Crimes. Thus she is a Lady Paramou
consumes his Estate with Gaming, wa
his Body with grieving him, persecu
his Soul, till it takes its flight, and so
last, loaden with Years and Cares, is waft
over in *Charon*'s Ferry, to the *Elys*
shades; and there's an end of his M
sery.

The sixteenth Comfort of Matrimony.

NOw we are come into the Teens, and past thorow the better half of our *Matrimonial Solaces*, we will discourse a little of this Sixteenth, which is a poor and pitiful Comfort indeed; for here Perjury and Pertinacy are VVedded together, as well as Man and VVife, both of them are Children of the Mean Mobile, Prophane *Vulgus*, or what you please to term them, mean in Parentage, as well as in Parts and Purse, he but of ordinary, and she of no extraordinary Mold, yet in time, after some Years Co-habitation and Cooperation, they are blest with a Numerous Company of Brats (Chargeable Blessings indeed, and fitter for the Parish to maintain than this Couple) they Drudge, Moil, Toil, and do all that can as yet be requir'd, but by and by you must be rounded in the Ear with another dismal Story, and you know very well, or at least I will inform you, that it is an old Proverb with the Phlegmatic Butter-box, when any

any thing is done effectually and to pu
pose, they say, *'tis perform'd as poor m
get Children.* But to proceed, if they prc
negligent, the craving Appetite of t
Bawling and Pratling Babe will soon w
ry them into a remembrance of their P
rental Office, in providing for their F
mily, since they were not so cautious
to make Provision before they engag
themselves rashly in that incumbent Du
Thus the Good Man after a hard da
Drudgery, having been at it before t
Sun appear'd in our Hemisphere, and co
tinued it till he is gone to bestow l
kind influence upon the *Antipodes*, w
when tired Nature requiring some R
freshment, he sits at one end of the Ho
like the Image of a Slovenly Mechanic, a
shē like the sluttish *Effigies* of Charity, wi
one Child at her Breast, a second in h
Lap, a third upon the Ground, grasping h
Knees, and the rest about them cryi
for Bread, bawling for Drink, screami
to be undrest, gaping and yawning to
laid to sleep: (a charming noise, and r
vishing harmony no doubt, enough
drive a man out of his wits, for not ha
ing so much previous wit, as to consi
it before) thus they have both their han

a

and heart full, God help them, he Rocks the Cradle, and she feeds the hungry Family, and all little enough to satisfie the grumbling of their craving Maws. Having been thus, for some Years, solaced with *the Comforts of Matrimony*, he begins to find his Wedded Life irksome, which makes him neglect his Affairs, slight his Business, Charges still increasing, and Trade decaying, now he has taken heart, and is resolved for the future to make use of the too common Mode of these times, to turn a Good-fellow, frequent the Tipling-House more than formerly, and his Shop less; nay if his Stock will at any time reach it, he will to the Tavern, and there sing *Old Rose*, till Night and the Constable, who summon all to go to their Rest and Habitations; then he Reels Home with Emptiness in his Pocket, Rage in his Looks, and Vexation in his Heart; And there he meets with a second Rencounter worse than the former, from his Wife (a Domestick, but sometimes untameable Animal) Well *Thomas!* (saith she) dost thou think that I am able to endure this Cursed Life? or can you imagine, that I must be confin'd at Home, with a parcel of Children about my ears, without Bread

and Drink to put in their Heads, wh
you are Revelling abroad Night and D
among your Sottish Companions: I ca
not bear it any longer, but am resolv'd to
abroad too, and then do you take care a
provide for the Children: I'll learn out yo
Haunts, and find you out if you are abo
ground, ne'r fear it; and then assure yo
self, I'll Ring you and your Drunken Aff
ciates such a Peal, as shall soon break
your Company. He being heated w
Drink, and naturally a surly, sower F
low, lays his brawny Arms upon her, a
corrects her for her Scolding, insom
that she is forced to keep House for a W
or Fortnight, to prevent the batter'd bl
and blew Livery of her Eyes and Fa
from being discovered by the Gossipi
Neighbourhood; he in the interim g
up in the Morning, and away to the A
house to refresh himself, and torment
at Home for her last Nights Work. N
he's grown irretriveably lost, as to
Trade and Family, works very little, a
that more for outward shew than a
thing else, is grown so bewitched to
new Gang of Pot-Companions, that
has taken resolution to Rant, Tear a
fling the Helve after the Hatchet; I

Mor

Money he must procure by one means or other, to maintain him in this Debauched Course of Life, partly by his own Inclination, and the repeated Persuasions of his beloved Friends; then the Houshold Moveables must march off, and be engaged for the supply of his Extravagant Expences, till there are no more to move out of the Cottage. The Poor Woman at Home seeing all going to ruine and destruction, grows Impatient at his Miscarriages, and resolves upon her *Dernier Effort*, to make her words good (as she had formerly promised) she in a Rage flies out, and is upon the quest to find him and his Haunts; at last, by some information, or possibly by meer Accident (for Wives are very successful in conjectures of this Nature, even to admiration) she hits on it, and in she dances with this Salutation to the People at the Bar, *Is my Husband here?* Yes, in such a Room; away she goes, and assoon as ever she enters, finds them at the heighth of their Mirth, Smoaking, Drinking, Singing, Swearing, and what not? but that which exasperates her most, is, a dirty Doxie Tipling among them, as impudent in her Behaviour, as contemptible in her Garb, but

like will to like, Jack *will have his* Gill *and* Jone *is as good as my Lady.* Impati ent at this Baggage, that toucheth hc Copy-hold ſo cloſely, the Hurrican is nigg at hand by black Clouds of her Countc nance, and with a Volley of upbraidin words, ſuch as Jade, Whore, Bitch, whaa dare you keep my Husband Company, tt the Ruine of him and his Family? the follows a Broad-ſide of Pots, Canns, Cam dleſticks, Pipes (and here the deſtructio of Pipes becomes the Generation of Stop pers) and 100 to one, if in this ſhar Counterſcuffle no great Miſchief be don ſhe certainly gives the Gentlewoman ſom ſlight Mark of her Honeſty, which ſhe cer tainly carries to the Grave. In this con fuſed Scene of Rage and Fury, the ſur prize doth abaſh the whole Company (bu more particularly her Husband) inſomuch that they uſe all poſſible, ſmooth Languag to pacifie her Wrath, which with muc ado is effected by diſcharging the Wenc privately by the conveyance of ſome bac way, and ſo break up the Company. Now he knows not what courſe to ſteer (ſo he's ſatisfied he ſhall never enjoy a quie minute with her for the future) unleſs i be to *Barbadoes* or *Jamaica* (the uſual Re ceptacl

ceptacle of Debauched and Crackt Artificers) which he ſoon effects, and ſo at laſt, having ſold all that he hath, ſells himſelf too, packs away, and is gone the firſt Wind that ſerves for his turn; leaves his Children as an inheritance to the Pariſh, and his Wife to the Almes-houſe, if they will be ſo Charitable, as to do it, conſidering her Misfortune. Thus you may ſoon gueſs at the iſſue of this *Comfort of Matrimony:* the Wife has left this wide World to beg in, but only the expectancy of a ſingle Pariſh to maintain her: the Husband is tranſported into another World, where through a ſtream of Exceſs and Intemperance, with the heat of the Climate, he ſwims into a third, in a very little time, and ſo dies a Slave and Stranger, imperiouſly inſulted over whilſt alive, and when dead, quoited into a hole, without the leaſt Mourning, or indeed ſo much as Chriſtian Burial

The

The seventeenth Comfort of Matrimony

AND this will appear to be more strange and incredible than any those that preceed, by reason of its Villany and the fatal consequences thereof. Here a Gentleman of good Learning and Education, but better Fortune, who by the consent of his Parents is disposed of to an Opulent a Gentlewoman, and every way correspondent to him in Youth, Parts and Portion; he Caresses with hot and frequent Addresses of Love; wishes that He might grow to her Threshold, that He might have the more frequent Fruition of her never-enough admired Society; she returns answer to all his fervent Applications, with a most becoming and charming Modesty; so that upon the strictest Observations of their mutual Deportment, nothing can be discern'd but a Matchless Amorous Passion between them reciprocally. When a convenient time is thus sported away, by making their Amours the Nuptial Ceremony (after preparation

no

neceſſary in Affairs of this Nature) is Celebrated, (and nothing but Joy and Comfort ſeems to attend their Cohabitation) which for continuance of Time, delicious Viands, luxurious Wines, together with all ſorts of other Liquors, Balls, Muſick, Jollity and other Diverſions, indeed for plenty all things, beſides the numerous Train of Invited Gueſts, Servants and Attendants, was never exceeded; nay, 'tis yet a queſtion unanſwered, whether ever equallized in this preſent, or ſome preceeding Ages. After the Ceremony of Solemnization is over, they Love as affectionately, Live as ſplendidly, as their Port can poſſibly bear (and further too, (as you will ſpeedily be ſatisfied) in their Country-Caſtle, during the Refreſhing and Healthful Summer, to enjoy the benefit of the Air, the Pleaſantneſs of their Evening Promenade, the delightful Proſpects of the Meads, Paſtures, Fruitful and Delightful Fields of Corn, and all thoſe inexpreſſible ſatisfactions that uſually attend the ſerenity of a Rural Life, and when wearied, or rather refreſhed with theſe Pleaſures, return to their City-Apartment; either for the Management of Affairs, or the enjoyment of the Variety and Choice of the

more Gentile and better sort of Compa-
ny. Here they both soon obtain by thei
Parts and Pence, Acquaintance of all Sort
and Tempers, so that 'tis impossible in
such a World of People, but they must
necessarily meet those that comply with
them in temper and gratifie. To Plays
Revels, Masques, at Court they daily re-
sort, and to other Places, when they re-
ceive Information of them; so that there is
no Publick Treat or Diversion can possibly
escape, and in small time, gaining great Ac-
quaintance, and that with great Ones too;
according as the times, he must needs Ren-
counter, as well as his Lady, with no
small or trivial Temptations. After they
have steer'd this course some years, the
Real Estate sinks and impairs too too sen-
sibly, and which is worst of all, they both
prove Improlific (and possibly the Curse
of Barreness is the punishment of their De-
bauchery) so that by a strange kind of
unusual tho mutual consent, he procures
a Chargeable Miss, and she an expensive
Gallant, he shakes his Elbow, and she her
Tail, and in process of time, they become
equally experienced in both these fashiona-
ble Qualifications; so that in some few
annual Revolutions, the Estate consumes,

and

and moulders away to nothing, by Mortgages and vaſt Debts contracted, the Retinue is turn'd off for want of Means to ſupport them, as formerly, Houſe-keeping laid aſide, and the Moveable Goods pawn'd or ſold outright, to maintain them. Upon this being ſear'd and grown obſtinately Profligate, and ſenſeleſs of their vanity and Impiety, through cuſtomary ſinning, they conſult how to repair their conſumptive and almoſt expired Fortunes, by Injurious, Illegal, Baſe and Sordid Actions, which at length bring them to a ſhameful Cataſtrophe, being both too haughty and high ſpirited, to live in a low and deſpicable condition; therefore he turns Pad, and the Buttock and File (that is Highway-Man and Pick-Pocket-Whore, in plain, honeſt *Engliſh*, according to the Canting of the Roguiſh Crew) into which they are now admitted and Matriculate. Well! what think you follows theſe wicked Reſolutions, to take up a wicked courſe of Life? why you may ſoon gueſs, tho Fortune ſeem to favour them for ſome time, ſucceſs ſeldom ſmiles long upon ſuch wretched Undertakers, but uſually brings them to a Condign Puniſhment. Poſſibly, after ſome perpetrated Villanies, the Product of their as

yet ſucceſsful Crimes may furniſh them with a Stock, in caſe of unavoidable neceſſity, when they are firmly catch'd in the Net of the Law (as formerly they were in that of Matrimony) This may prevail once or twice by a Lucky and Chargeable but this proving no caution but rather an encouragement to repeat their former Courſes, they go on as vigorouſly as before, and by skulking in private holes and obſcure receſſes, ſtave themſelves off from the ſtrict inquiſition of Juſtice; but at length, (for now their wicked Reign is near its period) ſome crafty Officers accuſtomed to be employed in ſuch Affairs and by the means of ſome injur'd perſon alliciated thereunto by the promiſe of a good Gratuity, ſearches diligently, finds them ſuddenly, and, by the neceſſary of a Juſtices *Mittimus*, conveys them immediately, without Bail or Mainpriſe, to a Loathſome and Fatal Gaol. The Seſſions are now at hand, and they in a Panic Fear, that they ſhall not come off, being conſcious of their Guilt: Well! to a Trial they are brought, and their Indictment containing the Crimes for which they are accuſed: they then have recourſe to *Newgate*-Evaſions, *Presbyterian* Shams (I mean Ly-

Lying and Diſſembling) and ſuch kind of inſignificant Triflings with the Court, who tired out therewith, direct the Jury, (who never read *Ignoramus*) and they upon a full Hearing of the Evidence, bring them in Guilty: Upon this, Sentence of Death is Pronounced, and they are ſent to their laſt Habitation here, as faſt tied by the Executioner here, as they by themſelves formerly. The Warrant being Signed for their Execution, and the day appointed, (there being no hopes of a Pardon, having already deſpiſed and abuſed that Grace and Favour) they are acquainted therewith in order to their Preparation; to undergo the deſerved and unavoidable Puniſhment of the Law, Death. The Fatal Morning appearing, they are made ready for their laſt Journey, to their long Home, and ſo diſgracefully Carted to *Tyburn*; where by the way, being as notoriouſly known, as they were notorious in the Tranſactions of their Life; ſome (who have Charity) pity them, many (who have ſuffered upon their account) Curſe them, and moſt blame them. This is a hopeful Comfort of the Tye of Marriage, which brings them at laſt to be Tyed up by *Ketch*, both indiſſoluble Knots, except untied by the cold

cold hand of Death. Thus you see tho the Sun-shine of the former part of their Life seem'd to be possibly glorious, was at length overcast, and tho they might have liv'd happily, did in the latter part, live wretchedly, and died ignominiously, so they might say of themselves, as the Poet did, with little Alteration——

Per varios casus, & tot discrimina rerum
Tendimus in Laqueum——

Thus, with them, ends the Seventeenth Comfort.

The

The eighteenth Comfort of Matrimony.

NOW (with this which is the laſt and too many, unleſs they were better) we ſhall run through a petty Jury, and a half of pretty and petty Comforts too, tho this exceeds all that is premention'd, and may afford ſome Diverſion, but far more Admiration and Aſtoniſhment. The Story is as followeth, which wants neither Truth, nor Authentic Authors to maintain it. A Gallant and Heroic Gentleman, altogether Martial, a Noted Commander, and of a very Ancient Extract; it was his good Fortune, as he innocently and probably conjectured, to make his Addreſſes to a Young, Beautiful Gentlewoman, (but ſee how that Fickle Baggage Fortune puts tricks upon Credulous Mortals) and after they had made and received ſeveral Viſits, and ſo united themſelves by the Amorous Chains of Paſſionate and Unfeigned Affection, that they thought nothing but that Cruel Deſtiny *Atropos* could ſeparate them. But it fell out, and very

very unluckily too) that the Ladies Parents (whose Eyes are always prying into such Intrigues) by some means and rewards to encourage the Discoverers, to prevent their design, shuffled up a Match between their Daughter and a very great Heir, with Menaces, Threats, severe Usage, so that weary of their Carriage towards her, she was at last compell'd, though with unimaginable regret, and great reluctancy, to embrace the Person she had an absolute indisposition, unfitness of mind, and aversion for, ever likely to hinder the many Benefits of Conjugal Society, namely, Peace and Comfort; but it is Decreed by a Law as unalterable as that of the *Medes* and *Persians*, that she must undergo this insupportable wearines. The Gentleman, who in truth was, or at least ought to be her Husband, endeavours to make way for an Interview with her, but finding all means ineffectual (she being so closely mew'd up, (another Comfort of Forced Marriage) by her Eagle-ey'd and Jealous Husband, insomuch that nothing could be Transacted, but he must necessarily find out, for *Zelotypiæ nihil impervium*, Jealousie is too quick-sighted to be disappointed by any endeavours whatsoever.

ſoever, whereupon he reſolves to take other meaſures, and therefore in great diſcontent (ſeeing he could not poſſibly procure the ſight of the ſo much admired and beloved) he quits his Native Country to Travel in queſt of ſome Comfort in Foreign Parts: We will now leave him in his Journey, and return to ſee how this new Married Lady bears her Affliction. She poor *Inamorata*, tho diſappointed of enjoying the Sole Object of her Love, (what a curſed Humour is this of Parents, for a cram'd Coffer to confine them to the Land of Affliction?) cannot be debarred the Privilege of thought, and therefore to manage that with the greater Prudence and Privacy, ſhe affects Retirement, and there bewailes her Misfortune in the enjoying this Man, as well as in the utter Loſs of her abſent Lover, (which prov'd too true at laſt, to her own deſtruction) thinks hourly of the bliſsful and harmleſs Embraces of her Valiant *Mars*, the mutual and innocent Proteſtations that paſſed between them at every aſſignation, the Poems, Acroſtics, Anagrams, and the whole Artillery of Love, that they uſed between one another. This was her ſole delight, her daily pleaſure,

ſure, and all the contentation that ſhe ever enjoy'd in her Matrimonial (tho unfortunate) Condition: and tho all theſe private Solaces were ſhrowded with all Honeſt and Modeſt Contrivances, yet her Carriage to her Husband did not ſeem ſo obliging to him, as he thought, he might deſerve, and therefore could impute it to nothing but unto the ſudden diſappointment of the Gentleman, who formerly Courted; who would certainly have ſtudied to procure his Deſtruction by ſome means or other, but that he knew he had deſerted the Country, and went away *Incognito*, ſo that there was no great Fear or Probability of his coming to careſs his Lady; but alas! he is miſtaken; for his End is by ſuperiour Power otherwiſe appointed. And now let us return to our Traveller; when he arrived at the place there happened to be War in thoſe parts, who being Magnanimous and Martial, (having loſt his Lady, ſcorn'd his Life) he went immediately into the Wars, and was entertained according to his Deſert and Quality; the Enemy being near at hand, he accoutred himſelf for an Attaque, which he did attempt with that Briskneſs and Valour (among thoſe in the Front) that

that nothing but one ſtimulated by Love, and a Contempt of his Life and Perſon, could ever have ſo valiantly performed; but behold the unlucky Chance of War! He in this over-Manful Aſſault, received a Mortal Wound, to the great grief of thoſe who were ſpectators of his Valour and Courage, whereupon he was immediately brought off, and convey'd to his own Lodgings; where arrived, he languiſhed ſome little time, and a little before his Death, he called an Ancient Servant to him (whoſe Fidelity and Truth he had often experienced) and told him, that he had, at this juncture of time, a weighty Buſineſs to unboſome to him, and intruſt him with, conjuring him by all imaginable, obliging Expreſſions and Deſires to ſee it effected, which was as followeth: I am ſenſible (ſaith he) that I am very near my Expiration, and therefore after my Death, procure ſome Chyrurgeons to open my Body, take the Heart out of my Breaſt, and put it into an Earthen-Pot, that it may be Baked to the conſiſtence of a Fine Powder, and having ſo done, put it into a handſome Box with this Bracelet of Hair, that he had worn about his Left Wriſt (being a Lock of his

Lady

Lady before mentioned) then place it in the Powder, together with this little Billet or Note, written with my own Blood to her, and after you have bestowed upon me the Rites of a Decent and Christian Burial, make all possible speed to her in her own Country, (which you know very well, as well as her place of Residence)) and deliver the said Box to her own hands.. The Old, True Servant did perform all that his Master had given him in Command, and so departed; arriving with great Expedition, at the Country and Place designed by his Master; and coming one day to her House, he unluckily, tho unexpectedly was surprised by the Ladies Husband, who knew him very well, and that he was Servant to that Gentleman who formerly made Applications to his Lady; and he examined him with a Brow-beating severity, and finding him timorous and hesitating in his Discourse and Replies, made no more ado but ransackt him, and found the fore-mentioned Box in his Pocket, with the Note, which specified what was contained in it; her Husband upon this dismist the Aged Servant with Menaces, charging him never more to approach his House upon his own

pe-

peril, and ſo the poor Servant departed *re infecta*, and his Maſters Commands uneffected, tho by Misfortune (as he thought certainly) diſobey'd. The Gentleman thereupon ſpeedily re-enters his Houſe, ſends for his Cook, and delivers him the Pouder, and withal charging him to make ſome ſmall, ſavoury Diſh of it, without loſing the leaſt particle of it, upon the forfeiture of his abſolute diſpleaſure, becauſe it was a very coſtly Cordial, and commanded him to bring it in himſelf after the laſt Courſe, at Supper; and the Cook did ſo accordingly: as ſoon as it was placed on the Table, he ordered all Perſons to quit the Room, which was no ſooner ſaid than done; and ſo began to enter into a moſt ſerious Diſcourſe with his Wife; how that ever ſince his Marriage, he obſerved her Dejected, Melancholic Carriage, and he did very much fear, that it was occaſion'd by ſome inward Conſumption, therefore he had made proviſion of a very ſovereign Remedy, which he was very well ſatisfied would cure her infallibly; thereupon he made her eat it all up, and when ſhe had ſo done in obedience to him, very earneſtly importun'd him to diſcover what it was, who told her for ſatisfaction at

laſt.

laſt, that ſhe had eaten her firſt Courtier's Heart, ſo drew the Box out of his Pocket, and ſhewed her the Note and Bracelet, at which in a ſudden Tranſportation, uſher'd with a deep ſigh, ſaid, This is Precious indeed, and lickt the Diſh clean, ſaying it is ſo precious, that 'tis pity any other Meat ſhould be taken down after it; thus ſhe went to Bed, and made good her words; for in the Morning ſhe was found Stone dead.

Now I preſume you are ſatisfied with the ſtrangneſs of this unparalell'd Comfort, the mere effect of a Compulſive Marriage againſt Reaſon, Senſe and Nature, to the Ruine of their own Daughter, and the Death of a Worthy and Valiant Gentleman, tho both ſo commended as much for their Fidelity and Conſtancy, as much as the Parents to be blamed for their Violence and Covetouſneſs, tho ſhe had at laſt the two Hearts joyned together, in ſpight of Father and Fate, tho upon my Heart I cannot away with this kind of Cannibal-like and Unnatural Conjunction.

Thus we have done with theſe Eighteen Comforts of Matrimony; and I call them Comforts, becauſe thoſe that are

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Married think them ſo, and will not be perſwaded to the contrary, tho I look upon them as the worſt of Misfortunes. I do not, nay I dare not ſay, that every Married Man taſtes of all theſe Comforts; but I will affirm this for Truth, that there is no wedded Perſon living, how Wiſe and Cautelous ſoever, but is ſenſible, at the leaſt, of one of theſe Comforts. Nor on the other hand do I ſay it is ill done to Marry; but it is not well done certainly, for a Man to be ſo Stupid and Inſenſible, as thoſe we here Diſcourſe of, apparently declare themſelves to be, and ſo are enſlaved with a ſelf-procured Bondage. I would not willingly diſoblige the Female Sex, nor indeed do I, if read without Prejudice, and rightly underſtood, the Contents of this Treatiſe, tending much to their Honour and Commendation, in all which Rencounters the Women win the day, come off Triumphantly, and Man is moſt ſhamefully worſted by the weaker Sex: and 'tis but Reaſon it ſhould be ſo, conſidering the Wrongs that they ſuffer by the Oppreſſion and Severity of their Huſbands, by Violence, and without Reaſon; only becauſe they are not of ſo Robuſtous Conſtitution, and are ſent into the World

with

with no other Weapon but the Tongue; nor any other Defence but their Chastity; tho daily exposed to the crafty Assaults of Wily Man: Nature having sent them so weakly Arm'd into the World, it is a prodigious shame, that Men should so barbarously insult over them, who are so ready to serve and obey, without whose Society the World would soon be a Desart; nay Men could not, did not, nor cannot live happily.

FINIS.